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Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-90-233
Tuesday
4 December 1990

Daily Report
Latin America

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Cuba

Malmierca Comments on UN Vote, Baker Meeting

FL0412014290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Dec 90

[News conference by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli with unidentified reporters at the Jose Marti International Airport on his return from the UN on 1 December—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Minister, why did Cuba vote against the UN resolution?

[Malmierca] Cuba's position from the beginning of the Iraq-Kuwait conflict has been to opt for peace and to work for peace. The proposal that became Security Council Resolution 678 did not seem to us to be leading toward a political solution that would prevent an even greater conflict (?that could) develop into war. This would be have terrible consequences, not just for the countries in the region, but for everyone, especially the Third World countries. That is why we explained, in Cuba's address to the Security Council, that we could not agree with that text, that it entailed a very serious risk of developing into a conflict.

We also explained that Cuba would continue its efforts in pursuit of a political solution like the one that it has already presented, along with Colombia, Malaysia, and Yemen, for the consideration of the Security Council. Therefore, it was perfectly consistent with our position for us to maintain our posture, our position in defense of peace.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the position of the PRC is a sign of a lack of unity among the members of the Security Council?

[Malmierca] Yes, undoubtedly on this occasion it was not possible to get the five permanent members of the Council to adopt a single, common position regarding the proposed resolution. PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen explained in his speech that the PRC could not vote yes on a resolution that authorized the use of force and entailed an escalation of the conflict. That is why it was impossible for the PRC to share the view of the other permanent Security Council members. This was evidence that all of the previous information and propaganda which said that this proposal was endorsed by the five permanent members was not true.

[Reporter] The U.S. President has tried to discredit Cuba's vote. What do you think about that?

[Malmierca] I do not think this is new. The U.S. Government has always tried to present Cuba's position as connected to the relations between Cuba and the United States. The international public and the countries represented at the Security Council know very well that Cuba has not voted for or against the various draft resolutions presented at the Security Council on the basis of our national interest, or the narrow framework of relations between our country and any other state, or between our country and the United States. We have always defended principles. We have always worked—and our votes have been consonant with that effort—in defense of peace. We would have liked to support the resolution. In order for that to have happened, however, the resolution would have had to include elements that would have allowed us to regard it as a contribution to peace. Because we could not achieve this despite the various consultations and meetings with numerous ministers of the states represented in the Security Council, Cuba could not vote in favor of this resolution. Actually, it is not a serious statement to maintain that Cuba took this position on the basis of the nature of our relations with the United States.

[Reporter] Why do you think that the U.S. President waited for the United Nations to approve the use of force before proposing a dialogue with Iraq?

[Malmierca] I must say that this announcement came as a surprise both to diplomatic circles in New York and to the U.S. press. This decision does not appear to be consistent with the positions that had been voiced by President Bush himself, as well as by other representatives of the U.S. Administration as late as one day before. That is why many people think this decision is a positive step that demonstrates that not all avenues had been exhausted, and that it was not necessary to think, as Resolution 678 maintains, that the only remaining recourse, the only available option is the use of force. It is necessary to continue working for peace. Negotiations, discussions, and dialogue are undoubtedly valid means toward this end. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had said in previous months, in previous weeks, that he was willing to meet with President Bush to discuss the Gulf situation. I repeat that I have not heard of the Iraqi Government's reaction. Did it accept? [Unidentified person says yes] Well, I am glad. I am glad that was the response, but we think that this was natural, because President Husayn had proposed it previously. This meeting and discussion should open the possibility of finding a way to prevent war.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, in your meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, how did the United States attempt—if it did make such an attempt—to persuade Cuba to vote in favor of the resolution?

[Malmierca] In the course of the meeting, Secretary of State Baker explained the U.S. positions regarding the draft resolution, which was basically a draft resolution [words indistinct], a draft resolution presented by the United States and Canada, who were later joined by other sponsors.

Baker defended, with the arguments [words indistinct], the draft resolution on the basis of the belief that there was no hope of a solution without the use of force. Of course, we reiterated our belief that it was necessary to continue efforts to find a negotiated, political solution, and we emphasized the tremendous consequences, not just for the states in the region, but for the entire world, that would derive from a war in the Gulf. As is expected, he defended (?his position), and we expressed our position, with which you are familiar.

[Reporter] Was no other topic related to Cuba discussed with Baker?

[Malmierca] No. As we were leaving... [changes thought] Before the meeting began, when photographers were taking pictures, reporters asked us if we had discussed bilateral matters. We explained that we had discussed nothing, that we had just met. As we were leaving, they insisted on the same question, and we replied, as I am telling you now, that the topics discussed were exclusively those matters that had been submitted for the consideration of the Security Council.

Daily Defends UN Security Council Vote

FL0312131390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] An Independent, Wise, and Just Position. This is how the GRANMA newspaper entitled an editorial today on Cuba's vote at the UN Security Council against the use of force in the Persian Gulf. The newspaper says that U.S. President George Bush, in recent statements on the subject, asserted that our country's decision was a result of a systematic anti-U.S. position and that this makes the Cuban Government an outcast in the international community.

GRANMA strongly rejects those views and states that the UN Security Council resolution appears to push the opposing parties toward an alley leading to no way out other than war. It also reminds that the inadmissible invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq does not free the members of the UN Security Council to find a just solution.

The GRANMA editorial says: We have exerted our right and fulfilled our duty in an absolutely independent and sovereign manner. The Cuban newspaper recalls that the United States has vetoed 81 attempts to condemn Israel and has blocked international sanctions against the apartheid regime and a rejection of its attacks on neighboring states. Later, it indicates that the Cuban delegation warned about the extremely grave consequences that a Middle East war would have for the entire Third World.

It says that it can be seen clearly that the Security Council gave in to strong pressures from the United States and some of its allies, that it was being dragged to a quick succession of hasty resolutions that were objectively headed toward a military outcome of the Gulf Crisis.

The GRANMA editorial remembers how China, one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, abstained from supporting the resolution and notes that this is an important fact because China is not a small and harassed country such as Cuba, which tomorrow could become a victim of the same aggressive scheme. The newspaper says China is a superpower with responsibilities in world policies and, from its point of view, did not feel forced to consent to the use of force against Iraq.

GRANMA adds: Yemen was the only Arab country represented in the Security Council. Its voice there was the voice of the Arab nation. The Yemeni rejection of a military solution expresses the rejection of the Arab peoples for rivers of blood to flow in the Gulf region. This vote alone, continues GRANMA, would be enough to morally disqualify the adopted agreement and places us once more before the subject of the indispensable democratization of the United Nations.

Commentary Declares U.S. Policy 'Anachronistic'

PA0312160290 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Station commentary read by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The masterminds of the Western propaganda against Cuba have emphasized the alleged support that the Caribbean island is giving to obsolete socialist systems and its refusal to accept political changes such as in Eastern Europe.

The United States, bastion of this anti-Cuban propaganda, has invited the Caribbean nation to be realistic, and at the same time, continues to shield itself with its hostility toward Cuba. The White House continues to promote the economic blockade and the possibility of an armed intervention, while at the same time refusing to return Guantanamo Naval Base to the Cuban Government. In addition, the anachronistic cordon around Cuba has remained unchanged for the past three decades, as a demonstration of the United States' political stubbornness. The measure has hurt the Caribbean country's economy, but it has not achieved its goal of destroying the revolution.

When the USSR and the United States signed an agreement to end the missile crisis in 1962—behind Cuba's back—most Cuban demands to her northern neighbor to respect the revolutionary state's sovereignty and independence remained unsatisfied. The Cuban Government said in 1962 that the October crisis—in addition to returning the territory usurped by Guantanamo Naval Base—should commit the United States to ending the economic blockade, subversive activities, pirate attacks, and airspace violations. Many of the claims remain pending because the causes that originated them are still valid.

Since 1962 when the world was on the verge of a conflagration, several U.S. administrations have retained their backward positions. The current U.S. Government is making the same mistake because it refuses to change a faulty course, which goes against the most elemental logic.

We face a great paradox: The United States is pressuring Cuba to make inappropriate changes, while the main capitalist power is sticking to its old positions.

Raul Castro Attends Armed Forces Day Ceremony

FL0312145690 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The political event and military ceremony marking the 34th anniversary of the landing of the Granma yacht and the FAR Day has been held at the Antonio Maceo Interservice School with Army General Raul Castro, minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces], in attendance.

Pioneer Joice Fernandez Gomez, winner of the Friends of FAR contest, spoke during the event which coincided with the national defense day. Division General Leopoldo Cintra Frias delivered the keynote speech. He referred to the enthusiastic and combative participation of the youths in defense day and expressed gratitude for the affection and admiration the people have shown to the FAR combatants for so many years.

Eight infantry blocks of the Antonio Maceo Interservice School participated in the parade that took place afterwards. Army General Alberto Joaquim Chipande, minister of defense of the People's Republic of Mozambique; and leaders of the party, state, and government, were present at the ceremony, among others.

Raul Castro, Rosales del Toro on Army Role

FL0312203090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Interview with Army General Raul Castro and Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of the General Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, by Diosdado Maso; on 2 December, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Raul Castro] I only carry out those higher orders and the will of the people in the defense of the country. I am very happy. It has been 34 years since the landing [of the Granma yacht] I am not a kid anymore. I am still young but I am not an adolescent. I feel as though it was the first day.

[Maso] I wanted to ask you a question. It was said today, when we are marking the 34th anniversary of the landing of the Granma, that the Armed Forces are rewarding the effort of all the people by working in the food program to become self-sufficient.

[Castro] In addition to helping the economy through the Youth Labor Army and the regular units, we have the firm goal of having the Armed Forces become self-sufficient at the end of this five-year period, even in rice, using the land it has.

[Maso] Since we always talk about restructuring the rosters, the adjustments made to the administrative rosters, we have been asked by many people: Is that not going to happen in the Armed Forces?

[Castro] This does not happen in a day. It has to be done constantly. The improvement of the enterprises we have is very interesting. Some articles have been published about it. We have done a great job in that area. We are now applying the results obtained in all the military enterprises in the country after all the appropriate experiments were made. Of course, the adjustment of rosters in the Armed Forces is not a drive. We do it constantly. We are making adjustments now, of course.

Ask something of the chief of the General Staff [Ulises Rosales del Toro].

[Maso] Yes, Chief of the General Staff, what is the most pleasant memory you have of the hard work you began as a soldier, and now as general of this Cuban people's army?

[Rosales del Toro] For me, one of the things that reflect the essence of our military life is the fidelity toward our people, our revolution, and our commander in chief. I believe that if there is something that identifies the Armed Forces is, together with its simplicity, with its identification with its people—because we are part of the people—that enormous fidelity to the process that our commander in chief is heading.

[Maso] I would like to ask a question but would like for you to answer, not as a member of the Politburo, or an Army general, but as an experienced officer in the Armed Forces. Do you believe there will be war in the Persian Gulf? Yes or no.

[Rosales del Toro] I speak from the professional point of view. I should say that everything indicates that there will be war in the Gulf. If I speak of the wishes of the peoples of the world, I should say that there will be no war in the Gulf. So, we need to wait and see if those who represent the countries are going to take other countries to war or if the voice that should make the feelings of the peoples heard prevails and there is no war.

Decorate Mozambican Defense Minister

FL0312151590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] has decorated with the Solidarity Order Army General Alberto Joaquim Chipande, member of the Mozambique Liberation Front Politburo and minister of the national defense of Mozambique. The decoration was conferred through an agreement of the Council of State.

The Combative Fraternity Order was bestowed during the event, which took place at the Granma Hall of the Minfar [Ministry of the Armed Forces], on the members of the delegation accompanying Chipande in his official visit to Cuba.

Speaking during the ceremony, Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of the General Staff, noted that this award honors the representative of a country to which we are linked by close cooperation ties which have emerged from internationalism.

For his part, the Mozambican minister stressed the pride he and his comrades felt by receiving this high-level award and said this helps strengthen relations between the Mozambican and Cuban peoples and armed forces.

* Need to Reduce Bureaucracy Discussed

91CA0022A Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 28 Oct 90 p 4

[Commentary by Soledad Cruz]

[Text] Even though it is very deeply rooted in the island of Cuba, bureaucracy—from "buro," meaning papers, offices and then "cracia," according to the Greeks which means power—is not a tropical, and certainly not a Caribbean invention. It naturally began in cooler and more temperate climates, for in snowstorms and blizzards it should be less irritating to have to fill in applications and forms and to stamp documents.

In Cuba the system has grown listless under the weight of foreign copies and the consent of ignorance, as it is easier to manipulate rules, regulations and general orientations and to apply them mechanically to everything, instead of preparing creative initiatives to resolve the diversity of special problems which arise during the process of production, artistic creation, education or when providing for any type of service.

The widespread practice of bureacracy did not take place through the efforts and the grace of the Holy Spirit; nor was it guided by Mephistopheles, yet it has created more problems for us than those which are usually caused by God and the devil combined. It has even become a demonic muse for young people. A mathematician, Felipe Marti Lopez, and Gustavo Gonzalez, a professor of theoretical physics, numbed by the bureaucracy, decided to change it into a poetic figure, in order to make the damages it causes more obvious.

"Not as bad as life/ It doesn't need a first and last name/ It doesn't need signatures and stamps/ To express its verdict on humans," writes Felipe on the nuisance of papers, while Gustavo satirizes the same distress with "Lead us not into temptation/ Rational systems/ Spiritual peace." For that is precisely the worst damage caused by bureacracy: distorting the harmonious advantages of the order which society needs by prompting hatred and scorn for authority or by sustaining advantages through its victims. Whether in the shop or the factory, bureaucracy represents the administration of the socialist state.

In this way, bureaucracy creates more than a little confusion and a lot of disappointment in people with a creative spirit and fresh initiative: in young people who by nature are antibureaucratic and in citizens who feel overwhelmed by the complexity of any transaction. Here, as elsewhere, they hold socialism responsible, but like young people, socialism in its essence is antibureaucratic.

In reality, bureaucracy is a burden oppressing humanity in any given social system. With the same vehemence with which Chekov ridiculed the Tsarist bureaucrats, contemporary writers mock high-rise office buildings which are entirely devoted to processing papers. However, such prehistorically maintained irony cannot console us in terms of the bureaucratic abuses in Cuba.

Still, the solution does not lie in throwing out desks or separating office workers from their papers. Instead, they should be used to make viable the control which is essential if we are to avoid waste, and maintain accounts so that property is not embezzled. Papers should be used to determine how much we are spending and how much we are earning in each operation. Bureaucracy needs to be transformed into an "ordercracy," to serve the true purposes of order.

Why—oh miracle of bureaucracy!—with so many papers, do papers still get lost? Costs aren't kept under control. We don't know results or earnings, the number of employees grows inflated, and we have used up tons of paper waging a battle against bureaucracy. This demonstrates that it must be a witch capable of unsuspected sorcery, for more than one bureaucrat can be found criticizing his counterparts.

What can be done? Let's avoid the resignation which, as Balzac says, is daily suicide, and let's debureaucratize ourselves. The Party has already started by reducing half of its apparatus, and for the past two years the State Cadres and the Reserves Preparation and Advancement Coordinating Committee has been tackling the job of promoting a new way of thinking, thus displaying the dynamism which people who are in charge of directing the nation's progress in a variety of areas must have.

These two elements, one practical and the other conceptual, are signs of a major improvement. But, defeating the bureaucracy is essentially up to the cadres and management systems. Bureaucracy has caused much damage, and still continues to do so to our island's vibrant and original creativity.

This isn't a country where people sit back and do nothing when confronted with the type of official who doesn't know anything and can't do anything. Everything now seems to indicate that we have indeed been led into the temptation of rational systems.

* Merits of Cultural Festival Performance Debated

* Awards Ceremony Criticized

91CA0029A Havana GRANMA in Spanish
23 Oct 90 p 4

[Article by Roxanne Pollo]

[Text] Unfortunately, those of us who attended the closing ceremonies of the 7th National Festival of Film, Radio, and Television witnessed what could easily be called an anti-show. Not only because poor taste and vulgarity predominated, or because it lacked any artistic or cultural meaning—perhaps the bare minimum necessary to prevent large numbers of people from walking out of the Yara just after the curtain rose—but because far from paying tribute to the artists who received the Caracol Prize that night, it was the negation of that very prize. On the one hand, the artistic, aesthetic, and cultural values of films, radio series, and television programs were exalted, while on the other hand, the closing ceremonies were totally lacking in any of them.

This is an untimely paradox that is not limited to a bad final night of this 7th edition of the Festival, as it represents an assault on the efforts that the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists (UNEAC) has made and on the cooperation of all the institutions associated with creativity in these media (the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Arts and Industry, the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, the ECITVFAR [not further identified] , and others). From the beginning, with the Artistic Gala honoring the 40th Anniversary of Cuban Television, they showed their interest in making the Caracol a truly exceptional opportunity to display the best of the creative efforts being made in film, radio, and television during a working year, as well as providing a forum for dialogue among artists.

This desire to accomplish and this interest in thoroughly debating issues that influence, hinder, or control artistic endeavors, with a serious and rigorous approach and with respect for different opinions, was what prevailed during the four days of theoretical sessions under the auspices of this competition—with a few exceptions that would have fit well in the unpleasant closing ceremonies.

At the same time, the exhibition of the works, their outstanding quality, the different alternative samples, the tributes, and the participation of the public—all of these made us stop and think about the social impact and the prestige that the festival attains each year. But the awards ceremony was conceived in opposition to all of the above, in absolute incoherence; it erred on the side of excess. It was full of insinuations and double entendres, off-color jokes and gags that not only parodied the situation of these media, but also attacked the creative effort of an entire nation to survive a difficult period in the Revolution.

The Caracol is the result of talent on the part of those who were able to make their own creative "caracol" [snail shell]. If we were mollusk specialists, we could undoubtedly compare this monster to those crabs that are incapable of making their own shells and move into shells that they could not build with their own efforts, to live and prosper there as the parasites of creation.

Without talent it is impossible to pay homage to talent. That honor brings dishonor. That abomination of a show diminishes the stature of the stimulus and impoverishes a finale that could have highlighted the artistic excellence we are used to seeing among the artists of the UNEAC. In our opinion, this institution could not have been unaware of the genesis of this finale, nor of its rehearsal and performance.

The last word is yet to come.

* UNEAC Defends Performance

91CA0029B Havana GRANMA in Spanish
24 Oct 90 p 4

[Letter from the Executive Committee of the Film, Radio and Television Association of the UNEAC to GRANMA]

[Text] UNEAC's [National Union of Cuban Artists and Writers] Caracol Festival has been celebrated for the seventh time, from 15 to 21 October. Destined to become the most important mass media event in the country, this festival revolved around the theme of national identity and its reflection in film, radio, and television.

Three important celebrations were the focus of attention in this Caracol: the 40th anniversary of Cuban Television, the 20th anniversary of the character "Elpidio Valdes," and the 5th anniversary of the New Latin American Film Foundation. But there was more: The Festival repeated that historic event at the Auditorium of the University of Havana, where for the first time the songs of the Afro-Cuban tradition were heard in an academic setting. Merceditas Valdes, the "little Ache" of Don Fernando Ortiz, was present, now directed by Miguel Barnet. Four days of theoretical discussion on how the media reflect our identity served to draw out the calm, reflective opinions of the presenters and participants, critics, officials, artists, and researchers. Careful analysis and mature criticism will contribute, if they are heeded, to the betterment of the media's efforts.

The theoretical debate was not confined exclusively to the Solidarity Room: At the Elpidio Valdes Theater, educators, artists, and even children discussed the graphic evolution of this well-known character, the historical context of his adventures, and his ties to the education of the child population. This unprecedented initiative served to recognize and reaffirm the relevance of this popular hero.

At the Yara Cultural Center the Caracol achieved some impressive moments. The premieres of "Hello, Hemingway" and "Maria Antonia," as well as the debut of two stories in the series "Difficult Loves" and clips and discussions of film, video, radio, and television shows, provided the artists with an exceptional opportunity to expose their work to the public.

Shortly after the special "Caravana" event, the audience sang the national anthem and waited for the beginning of Cuban Culture Day. In the early morning hours, the Association of Scenic Arts honored its most outstanding performers in front of a full house.

Not only were Caracol prizes awarded at this festival; other institutions and organizations also promoted creativity in the media, which reveals the increasing recognition of the social impact of film, radio, and television.

The work of the juries was serious, rigorous, and responsible. They focused exclusively on the quality of the works presented. The works that won prizes in the different categories immediately inspired a consensus among the best artists in these media. Talent was once again rewarded in the Caracol Festival.

Two ambitious shows marked the opening and closing of the festival. The first, a tribute to 40 years of Cuban Television, demonstrated the affection that a loyal public feels toward the principal figures in this medium, overlooking a few flaws in the scenic lay-out of such a difficult undertaking.

The closing ceremonies, at which the Caracol prize was awarded, represented an attempt to break out of the pattern and combat the Hollywood-like style that is so common in these events. Unfortunately, the results did not match the intentions. The script and the staging focused attention on the mishaps that occurred in the show rather than on the awards themselves, and there were undoubtedly weak points. Not all of the prizewinners were treated with the dignity they deserved, but this deficiency did not prevent the audience from suspending the general atmosphere of humor to express its vehement support for the most well-known works.

We are satisfied with these seven days of cultural celebration. This was a festival for the artists and for the public that was carried out with minimal resources, in keeping with the times this country is going through.

To present the Caracol at this juncture represented a challenge to the organizers, who worked intensively and sought new and creative formulas. Our objective has been and still is to maintain cultural life through all possible means, as a contribution to the spiritual enrichment of the people, as a spur to the reaffirmation of the national identity, as a forum for the integrating role of culture.

[Signed:] Executive Committee of the Film, Radio, and Television Association of the UNEAC.

[Box, p 4] GRANMA Editorial Note

With the publication of this commentary by UNEAC regarding the Caracol Festival, GRANMA ends the discussion of the matter reported in yesterday's article, "Without Talent It Is Impossible to Pay Homage to Talent." We emphasize, however, every single word written by our reporter. Many of those who were in the audience have written letters of support, expressing their agreement with the comments on the awards ceremony. Despite the technical and evasive nature of the UNEAC statement, which does not respond to any of the points made by GRANMA, we are confident that the organizers of the next Caracol Festival will have a more self-critical and reflective attitude, and will show greater respect for the artists and for the national situation. Mockery will never be a prize.

* UNEAC Calls Criticism "Irresponsible"

91CA0029C Havana GRANMA in Spanish 3 Nov 90 p 3

[Letter from UNEAC President Abel Prieto to the Editor of GRANMA]

[Text] Havana, 26 October 1990, "32nd Year of the Revolution"

Comrade Jacinto Granda, Editor of the newspaper GRANMA

Dear Comrade:

We feel compelled to express to you some of the opinions of our organization regarding the newspaper GRANMA's coverage of the closing ceremonies of the 7th National Festival of Film, Radio, and Television, and the reactions and concerns it has prompted among the members of the UNEAC [National Union of Cuban Artists and Writers].

Although the newspaper GRANMA unilaterally declared the conclusion of the controversy it had engendered so threateningly 24 hours earlier ("the last word is yet to come"), we do not believe the matter is closed. We invite you to publish this letter, which we will send to UNEAC members throughout the country, cultural institutions, leaders of this sector, and the highest political officials in the nation.

In the first place, we must recognize all the elements of this closing ceremony that deserve criticism. In an attempt to break old patterns, the organizers made the mistake of mixing the awards ceremony with a poorly conceived show that lost sight of the most important objectives. There were moments of vulgarity, bad taste, and excess that counteracted the good intentions of the original proposal. It is clear to all of us that this program tarnished the image of a festival that achieved undeniable accomplishments, and fell short of what the prizewinners and the audience deserved. Nevertheless, it would be totally unjust to contend (as the article of 23 October does) that these producers and artists lack talent. They have talent, and they have demonstrated it, even if the show in question was a failure.

But what requires a mature political reflection is the significance the event takes on when it is asserted that it constituted an assault on "the creative effort of an entire nation to survive a difficult period in the Revolution." This irresponsible assertion, which strikes very delicate chords in the public's sensibilities, has given rise to speculations of all sorts among those who did not attend the event; it has blown out of all proportion the possible negative impact of the show, and has tried to establish a very dangerous distance between a cultural event, whether success or failure, and the efforts of our people. Can it be that the revolutionary artists and writers of this country are not part of the people? Are we not devoting all of our energies to the endeavor "to survive a difficult period in the Revolution"? On the other hand, publishing an assertion of this nature in a newspaper such as GRANMA turns an event that involved fewer than 2,000 spectators into a national problem with incalculable political dimensions. Anything that tends to separate the movement of artistic and literary creativity from the heart of Cuban society runs counter to the principles of the Revolution's cultural policy.

The reaction within our circle to the article titled "Without Talent It Is Impossible to Pay Tribute to Talent" was immediate; it was repudiated by a great many reputable artists. In fact, comrades who had not liked the controversial show thought the article in question was excessive, and they came to UNEAC to express their solidarity with us.

We must emphasize that our position has never been one of agitation, nor have we intended to provide a forum for "tremendismo" [use of realism to shock] or incendiary attitudes. On the contrary, we remained calm and decided to overlook all the questionable aspects of the article. We believe it was senseless to focus the controversy on the closing ceremonies. We thought it would be more useful for the Executive Committee of the Film, Radio, and Television Association to send the newspaper an overall assessment of the event that contained a succinct self-critical judgment of the occasion. This point of view predominated when we drafted the statement entitled "More About the Caracol," and it translated into a tone of respect toward the reporter and the organ of the press itself, in an effort to avoid a direct confrontation. In fact, there never was a thoroughly self-critical evaluation of the ceremony in question.

The calm and deliberate tone of the statement by the Executive Committee of Film, Radio, and Television, to our surprise, was countered by an aggressive and disrespectful postscript. On this occasion the target was not our 30-year enemies, but a cultural institution that since its origins has strived to defend the Revolution and the unity of Cuban writers and artists. This postscript's authoritarian exhortation to the UNEAC to "have a more self-critical and reflective attitude, and (to) show greater respect for the artists and for the national situation" is totally unacceptable.

We can make mistakes. But we are not in an ivory tower; we have never been out of touch with the national situation. All the work of the UNEAC has been motivated by the most profound respect for the artists, who are its raison d'etre, and for a systematic effort to increase the social relevance of its work throughout the country. It has also shown respect for the permanent ties we have established with the most diverse institutions in connection with tasks that deal with interests that are vital to the development of both culture and society as a whole. The overall design of the Caracol Festival these past years is another example of the above assertion.

When both the article and the editor's note regarding this matter are reviewed objectively, it is apparent that a totally unprecedented style has been adopted in the coverage of our institution. In the context of a press that chooses its terminology so carefully when criticizing, this hypercritical and scathing treatment is even more surprising. Consider, for example, the terms used to describe the finale ("monster," "parasites," etc.); the threat with which the article ends ("the last word is yet to come"); the reprimand for the failure to oversee the production of the show; the unexpected aphorism that closes the postscript ("mockery will never be a prize"); or the confrontational warning about everything we must take into consideration when we produce future Caracol Festivals. These phrases, and others, are more appropriate to a boasting session than a true intellectual discussion. In our opinion, they are not usable in the debate we should aspire to.

In this spirit, we propose a meeting with the newspaper's editors to clear up matters that should not provoke any conflict. Without bitterness or reservations, we reiterate our esteem for the GRANMA staff and our willingness to continue cooperating and working with you at a time when unity among revolutionaries becomes more necessary than ever.

Fraternally,

Office of the President of UNEAC

* GRANMA Responds to UNEAC

91CA0029D Havana GRANMA in Spanish
3 Nov 90 p 3

[Letter from the Editor of GRANMA to UNEAC President Abel Prieto]

[Text] Havana, 1 November 1990, "32nd Year of the Revolution"

Comrade Abel Prieto, President of the UNEAC

Dear Abel:

Indeed, a mature political reflection is called for in connection with the antithesis of a tribute that was the Awards Ceremony of the 7th National Festival of Film, Radio, and Television.

Above all, the excuse-laden account with which the Association Executive Committee scornfully replied to criticism was immature. It is pointless to be mistrustful in the face of the blatant statement by the President's Office that "it was senseless to focus the controversy on the closing ceremonies."

Thus, with errors in language as well as tone, GRANMA did more than unilaterally terminate the argument; it decided to focus on the evidence that the aforementioned group felt it was morally exempt from the obligation to offer an explanation to the readers. We could always have filed a second appeal, but we elected not to pursue what showed all signs of becoming a classic dialogue of the deaf.

One fact cannot be denied: The points made by GRANMA that have so upset the UNEAC President's Office have their roots in our criticism of the disastrous awards ceremony. The truth is that the Association Executive Committee did not have to accept implications of an ideological nature, or of any other sort, if it considered them unfair. And it had every right, of course, to reject them, for which purpose it merely had to present a serious analysis. This would have obviated any further comment by the GRANMA editorial staff.

We also consider immature the reaction of the President's Office in assuming *ex oficio* certain responsibilities that no one would or could assign to it, and in employing in its allegations a term with such false connotations as "boasting" to describe GRANMA's statements. If there were excesses in the article and the commentary, the response was not exactly free of them.

The path of unity and dialogue advocated by you should be pursued further to persuade you that at no time did we intend to scold or threaten you. This formal statement should suffice to prevent us from miring ourselves in a sterile discussion. For the sake of that unity, we will ignore the reckless suggestion that we at GRANMA indulge in authoritarian practices; at the same time, we would be guilty of skirting the issue if we were to stop short of questioning an argument that changes the GRANMA reporter and editorial staff from the authors of a criticism that has yet to be countered, into the victims of an accusation of abusive behavior.

Let's go back to the real beginning.

It is not difficult to agree with the President's Office that "there never was a thoroughly self-critical evaluation of the ceremony in question." It is also obvious that those directly involved are hiding behind the convenient excuse that they were trying to break old patterns. Your opinion, which reduces the event that you admit was vulgar, in bad taste, and excessive to a "poorly conceived show" whose good intentions we have no reason to doubt, still strikes us as evasive.

The conclusion that "this program tarnished the image of a festival that achieved undeniable accomplishments, and fell short of what the prize-winners and the audience deserved" is closer to the mark, in our view. It is not surprising, therefore, that, as you point out, reputable artists did not like the show, among them—we would add—some of the prize-winners who called it anticultural.

With the degree of subjectivity that is appropriate to the situation, each spectator, like the journalist or the critic, can form his own opinion regarding the talent of those who conceived and produced the show. It is true that a setback does not detract from the quality of an artist, nor does it preclude future successes, especially when there is no doubt about his ability to prove it.

What the GRANMA Editorial Board is interested in reaffirming, particularly for its readers, is that the aphorism that concluded the editorial note, "mockery will never be a prize," may have been unexpected but it was no less accurate for that. The many people who felt obliged to walk out of the Yara apparently agreed.

The UNEAC President's Office is in any case misinformed when it contends that GRANMA turned a phenomenon that was limited to an audience of 2,000 into a national problem. Credit for that goes to the popular program "Making Radio," a radio show with one of the largest listening audiences in the country. In its 21 October show, two days before "Without Talent ..." appeared, this "Radio Rebelde" program said that the previous night's show at the Yara became vulgar and even offensive as soon as it started. According to "Making Radio," it looked like a year-end school production from the old days, replete with mistakes, gaffes and errors and saturated with disrespect. In short, from the perspective of "Making Radio," this was a "disastrous" show plagued with bad taste and vulgarity, the antithesis of what had been discussed at the theoretical debates of the Festival. Indeed, not a few journalists who witnessed the event were prompted to ask (and we quote): "This is culture? This is national identity? This is a worthy conclusion to the Caracol Festival?"

As this program's hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of listeners know, there was also a reply to this commentary by the people in question, broadcast live. So it was not GRANMA that created a national incident out of a demonstration of anticulture with which the 7th Caracol Festival ended undeservedly.

One final point requires a brief comment. The UNEAC President's Office has lost all objectivity when it contends that the article and the editorial note call into question all the activities of the institution. This assessment would not only be historically unjust, but it would also be very far removed from reality; in fact, the Party and the people agree that the leadership elected by the 4th UNEAC Congress is worthy of high esteem.

On the other hand, if we can congratulate ourselves for anything, it is that no one in Cuba, no matter what institution he was operating from, could "separate the movement of artistic and literary creativity from the heart of Cuban society."

It is worth asking whether the disputes that arise within a family should be aired in public. If the UNEAC leadership had sufficient reason to do so, so does GRANMA. The carelessness and improvisation that made this botched job possible do not justify it, of course. In a fair fight, an artistic failure—or, as "Making Radio" called it, a catastrophe—should not be used as an example, even in the negative sense. Our concerns go back further, and we do not necessarily want to link them to the disastrous awards ceremony. Consequently, these momentary differences with the President's Office, which are more a matter of style than of content, are not of great import.

Our cultural policy has grown out of a true revolutionary process that by its very nature has no place for buffoons. This policy sponsors, promotes, and supports a rigorous, committed, enriching practice of art in all its expressions. Hybrid exponents, where talent and mediocrity tend to coexist, are trying to take shelter under this policy and use it as a platform, intent on making their mark as the minstrels of demoralization. It is for this reason, above all, that we characterize as manifestations of anticulture certain shows in which an iconoclastic and anarchist tendency flourishes and encourages jokes, gags, and jibes whose themes include national symbols and perhaps some of the most sensitive and difficult problems in the tense and complex situation we face today.

As Che said so presciently, "We need to develop an ideological cultural mechanism that will provide for investigation and will clear out the weeds that multiply so easily on the fertile ground of state subsidies."

In light of our experience, subsidy administrators cannot expect anything of these weeds but ingratitude. Some, to continue being nice at all costs, ignore insolence and languish in the meekness of unprincipled tolerance. Meanwhile, the victims are all of us: the people. And it is the workers, who selflessly sustain the country's economy, to whom they show the worst lack of respect.

Many no less reputable representatives of various spheres of our society, including no small number of intellectuals, have attested to their solidarity with GRANMA's alarm, although some of them have reservations about what they consider to be gratuitous surliness. At the same time, however, they are aware that there is no room for Versailles-like concessions toward a disrespect that they, like us, believe is truly dangerous.

Others, with unquestionably good faith and in the certainty that right is on their side, may think otherwise, may even take a diametrically opposed stance. What GRANMA cannot allow in times like these is ambiguity. We assume the risk of unintentionally bruising the sensibilities of a comrade or of an institution.

Without any pretension of having the final say, we believe that there is a need for a rigorous and responsible dialogue, as can only happen among true artists intent on making a real and effective contribution to our emergence from this difficult period of the Revolution. Since we know that the UNEAC is dedicated to the search for this solution and we share with you the conviction that healthy, constructive, and militant criticism of our situation is part of that solution, we loyally extend a fraternal hand to the Office of the President. We happily accept the invitation to a meeting that can only result in clarification, unity, and the reaffirmation of the principles we share.

Fraternally,

GRANMA Editorial Board

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Appoints New Provincial Governor

FL0312171290 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has appointed Mr. (Ramon A. Font Bernard) as director of the country's General Archives with the rank of secretary of state. Mr. (Ramon Font Bernard) was appointed to the post by Decree 496-90. The new official replaces Dr. Pedro R. Vazquez who had resigned.

On another matter, Mr. Gilberto Alcibiades Cruz Baez was appointed civil governor of Maria Trinidad Sanchez Province through Decree 495-90.

Swears In Port Director

FL0312173590 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Yesterday, President Joaquin Balaguer swore in General Leoncio Garcia y Garcia, retired, as executive director of the Dominican Port Authority. The swearing in ceremony took place at President Balaguer's office located on the second floor of the National Palace. Mr. Leoncio Garcia y Garcia was appointed through Decree 495-90 issued by the chief executive. Garcia y Garcia is replacing Engineer Simon Tomas Fernandez and General Nelson Jose Morillo Rodriguez who held the post on an interim basis. The decree that appoints the new official states that he will be able to use his military uniform for as long as he holds the post.

Haiti

PAIN Leader Dejoie Campaigns in Cap-Haitien

FL0312193590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Report by correspondent Fred Damas in Cap-Haitien—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The National Agricultural and Industrial Party [PAIN] presidential candidate, Louis Dejoie II, attended a popular meeting in the public square of Lafossette [section of Cap-Haitien] Saturday afternoon; and he held a news conference yesterday morning at the Beck Hotel as part of his election campaign.

Dejoie, who was speaking before several hundred people who gathered on the square, said that the press in general is playing against him. None of it—spoken, written, or televised media—does its job well where Dejoie is concerned. He said that the people should be made aware of the fact that the Cap-Haitien journalists will tell Port-au-Prince that Dejoie did not gather a crowd in Cap-Haitien, whereas in a single glance he has already seen that there are several thousand people in the square. The PAIN leader asked the population to vote in great numbers in the elections. He denounced certain irregularities with some other candidates regarding the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP].

Without mentioning any names, Dejoie noted that there is a political party that has bought the PAIN Communal Section Administration Councils [Casec's], parliamentary, and senatorial candidates [as heard] and that he reported those wrong doings to the CEP. But the CEP told him that they cannot do anything for him anymore, that the biggest problem in the elections was Dr. Roger Lafontant and they have already disqualified him. [passage omitted]

Throughout the meeting and the news conference, Louis Dejoie II praised Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide as one of the famous nationalists like himself. He praised Reverend Sylvio Claude as well. He also declared that if the 1990 elections are spoiled the people will shift into fifth gear.

De Ronceray Addresses Voters in Petite Riviere

FL0312202990 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Report by Petite Riviere de l“Artibonite correspondent, Milceus Gaspard, on 27 Nov 90—recorded]

[Text] After a day of visits to Desdunes, Marchand, and Verrettes on 27 November, Hubert de Ronceray, presidential candidate of the Mobilization for National Development [MDN] party, arrived at Petite Riviere around 2200. His visit to Petite Riviere was to recall the 20 January 1990 events, when Avril, after his trip to China, declared a state of siege all over the country and arrested, tortured, or exiled political leaders. De Ronceray was also there to discuss his party's emblem [a cigarette in one eye], and to answer questions about Manigat, and the sugarcane cutters contract he signed with the Dominican Government when he was social affairs minister under the Jean-Claude Duvalier regime. De Ronceray said in his talk: We fought for democracy and we prepared a plan of social reform because we wanted to eradicate extreme poverty and ignorance. But we did not collaborate with the Manigat government because, as a professor of political sciences, Manigat broke the great democratic principles he is teaching students at the university. But why did de Ronceray sign the sugarcane cutters contract? Let us listen to the candidate.

[Begin de Ronceray recording] What do I think about the sugarcane cutters contract? I think it exists because of poverty and unemployment. If we could give jobs to the people, they would not go cutting sugarcane [in the Dominican Republic]. When I was minister, I thought that the best way to solve the problem was not by endless discussion, but rather by looking for jobs for the people. This is why I decided to open three sugar companies in Haiti: so that Haitians did not have to cut sugar cane, like slaves, in the Dominican Republic.

I raised enough money to open the companies, but the government was afraid that if a minister could achieve such an extraordinary feat as that in the country, he would also be capable of usurping power. The government therefore prevented me from carrying out my plan. I felt so indignant at that time, I began my plans for resignation. That was the reason my relations with the government deteriorated until I felt obliged to break with the regime entirely. [end recording]

The MDN leader ended by expressing the hope that the population of Petite Riviere would choose well. He took the opportunity to ask those who have already seen the light to pray for those who are still blind. De Ronceray left the city on 27 November around 2400, hoping to return to Petite Riviere as Haitian president after 16 December.

U.S. Interpol Agent Found Dead in Acapulco

PA0412040190 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0326 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Acapulco, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Guadalupe Salgado Torres, an agent of the third branch of the Public Prosecutor's Office's Equity Court, has reported that 50-year-old International Police (Interpol) agent James Ledbetler Eugene died under mysterious circumstances here yesterday.

She said that the body, which was found in a room of a well-known hotel in this port city, shows signs of violence.

Salgado added that the motive of the crime and the reason why the agent was in Acapulco are still unknown.

Salgado said that the Interpol agent, according to documents found in the hotel, is a U.S. national, 50 years of age, 1.85 meters in height, has white complexion, and is stout, and that such characteristics were registered in investigation file No. tab/3a/1640/990 [as recieved].

She added that the body does not have a knife or gunshot wound, but the medical examiner will officially determine whether the agent died of natural causes or was murdered.

* NEXOS Television Panel on Electoral Process

91CA0021A Mexico City NEXOS in Spanish No 154, Oct 90 pp 37-46

[Text] The following piece is an edited transcript of two NEXOS TV programs. The first dealt with the recent local elections in Uruapan, Michoacan as a typical case of conflict in a particularly troubled area (see Sergio Mastretta's article in this same issue on "The Cardenist Basin" [not processed by FBIS]). The other was on the new Federal Electoral Code that has just taken effect. But all eyes are on 1991: Will the parties, the administration, and the citizenry be able to settle their conflicts and differences within an agreed upon framework? Uruapan is still on people's minds, but the future is today as well.

Juan Miguel Alcantara is a federal deputy for the National Action Party (PAN) and coordinated the PAN delegation in the work on the new electoral legislation. Jorge Alcocer is a member of the National Council of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) and represents the party on the Federal Electoral Commission (CFE). Rolando Cordera, an economist, is a member of the NEXOS editorial board and moderates the paper's TV program. Gerardo Medina, a newsman, is again a PAN federal deputy. Santiago Onate is a member of the Federal District Assembly of Representatives (ARDF) and sits on PRI's [Institutional Revolutionary Party] National Executive Committee. Jose Woldenberg is a newsman, professor at UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico], and member of the NEXOS editorial board.

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Rolando Cordera: I'd like to ask Jorge Alcocer the following question: Are we going to keep on going from conflict to conflict in the chamber, in towns, and perhaps in federal elections? Can Uruapan be called one of the last electoral episodes that no one wants, or will it remain just another example of an undesirable rule?

Jorge Alcocer: We're saying what we always have: the important thing is for the votes to be counted and to count and for the will of the citizenry to be respected as the only constitutional way to establish the government of the republic at its various levels. I personally and my party, the PRD, are very worried about the lack of agreement among the political forces, particularly with the Institutional Revolutionary Party, on rules that will lend certainty and credibility [to elections] in achieving this objective.

What can be done so that electoral regulations are a starting point for new practices, new commitments, new confidence in society? This is what we've failed to achieve so far. We're faced with this danger: that repeated electoral conflicts will wind up alienating the citizenry because the elections are not credible, because the citizenry does not think that their votes will be respected, and because our political parties are involved in the same conflict over and over again: Who's telling the truth, who's engaging in propaganda? What the case of Uruapan shows, in my judgment, is that we need electoral legislation that enables everyone to be certain of the results.

Gerardo Medina: The electoral problem in Mexico is not one of laws. It is basically a problem of political will. An election can be officially legal and turn out to be extremely dirty when the law is not, in its letter and enforcement, simple enough and, at the same time, when it does not allow the elections to be as transparent as everyone would like. On the other hand, however, we've come to think that there can be a very good election with a not very good law when there's enough of a will to make it an honest one. To put it differently, law is the form, and the honesty or authenticity of an election is the substance. In other words, the law could be the brightly colored cellophane or the very pretty box around something filthy.

Santiago Onate: The electoral problem is the focus of our diagnosis, although it's not the only problem that greater democratization in the country faces. Elections must count and be the legitimate and sole basis for choosing public authorities. No political party questions this. The difficulties begin with the way to bring this about. And as Jorge Alcocer says, the point in this conflict is to distinguish between truth and propaganda, to have verification mechanisms to establish the honesty of an election and also to uncover, and punish, the irregularities, vices, or funny business that can happen in any social institution. And it does happen in Mexico. This demands a new attitude from the participants.

Practices and norms are interdependent, but here our parties have a score to settle with society, regarding the way that we've challenged the elections, and the manner that we've dealt with them. We would be making progress if we clarified how we, as a party, are going to resolve an election conflict.

Rolando Cordera: The political actors, who are supposedly responsible for weaving this new network of political relations that we call democracy with certainty or transparency, are going from conflict to conflict. Uruapan, in Michoacan, is a typical example. An election was annulled in Uruapan. Another was called, and the parties were involved in reviewing the voter rolls. The parties were involved at polling places, they monitored them, and signed a high percentage of the tally sheets. Afterwards, there were claims of fraud, that the election was fixed. Two of the parties that reviewed the voter rolls said that. What are we to say about this?

Santiago Onate: In Mexico any election is a good example of how a dispute arises and how it is dealt with. The election in Uruapan was annulled. A new one was called. PAN was the first to realize that the voter rolls needed to be reviewed. A specific arrangement was designed for this purpose, and the parties got involved with a great many representatives. The PRD had a particularly large presence on these bodies; PAN and PRI were also involved, in smaller numbers. A number of documents were drawn up to check whether people on the voting list actually lived at a certain address. It was discovered that many did not and that the voting list had obvious shortcomings. These entries were then stricken, but the citizen credential was not picked up.

The credential remains in the possession of someone who can later come and say: I'm registered and I want to vote. He didn't find out that they had removed him from the list of voters; or else he found out, objected, and the mistake wasn't corrected. But here lies the sanctity of the voting list: whoever ought to be able to vote should be allowed to. An effort was made in Uruapan; there were some shortcomings. I don't think that these shortcomings were significant for the entire process. There are accusations, of course, but they were made after a supervised election; there are tally sheets and documents signed by the political parties. I think that the problem lies in the method of discussing the issues and the timing. Clarity is needed in discussing the conflicts.

Jorge Alcocer: The problem in Uruapan is very illustrative. The first requirement for clean elections in Mexico is a clean, reliable list of voters where no one adds names to or removes names from them for illegal purposes. We have evidence that at least 4,300 citizens were improperly removed, and we've submitted it to the Federal Electoral Commission.

Rolando Cordera: But the PRD approved the list.

Jorge Alcocer: Really approve it, no. The parties were involved in the physical-inspection work, house by house. But changes were made when it was put into the computers. The basic problem is that chairmen of the PRI sectional committees were named election-board officials at 68 of the 100 polling places set up in the town of Uruapan, and 50 of them were appointed chairmen of the polling places. Who appointed them? The chairman of the Municipal Electoral Committee, on his own. It was not a collective decision. The Municipal Committee named 68 PRI members, and it just so happened that at 40 of these 68 polling places PRI doubled, tripled, or quadrupled its vote at the December elections.

One could argue: the law doesn't prohibit this. But then let's agree that there's a problem with the law, because an election cannot be credible when the polling-place board is chaired by someone who is as committed to a political party as the chairman of its regional committee.

Gerardo Medina: We all agree that there are three phases to an election. One is the preparation, the second is the vote, and the third is the certification. Each of them is part of the process. When there is a breakdown in any of the three stages, there can be no talk of clean elections.

Rolando Cordera: So each stage defines the process as a whole?

Gerardo Medina: Absolutely. This is why there are signatures of the party representatives on the election boards in Uruapan. This is no way endorses, justifies, or explains the entire preparation stage. The list of voters is definitive in the preparatory stage. With a supposedly screened list of voters in which 34,000 changes were made, additions and deletions included, there was no way to anticipate what happened: that almost 6,000 people, with credentials, were unable to vote. There are notarial certificates with definitive lists that were not handed into the parties but were merely used at the polling places.

There is another vital element to preparation: the makeup of the electoral bodies. If the preparation is deficient, the entire process is corrupted and ceases to be credible. Therefore, there must be a minimum of fairness in the makeup of the electoral bodies. Otherwise, the traditional majority vote determines the election returns. For example, in Uruapan a vote was taken on whether to give the PAN representative the floor and whether to accept a PRD document. The majority, which just happened to be from PRI, decided against this, saying that if they wanted to talk, they should do so at the end. How can we believe in an electoral process that was concocted like that from the outset?

Rolando Cordera: Let's move now from Uruapan to what the prospects are for elections all over the country?

Santiago Onate: The list of voters is fundamental, as are the election bodies. This is why in the federal legislation PRI proposed greater neutrality and the sort of training and makeup that will assure that these officials are impartial.

Rolando Cordera: What would the basis of this neutrality be?

Santiago Onate: The introduction of criteria for training a given number of citizens [is needed]. After this, the proper body will choose among them by some method, whether a random one, like drawing lots, or under a system in which some are challenged and those that are not remain. This has to be discussed to prevent the usual complaints: that if this party got 26 polling places, the other got 12, and that one got four, the one with 26 is going to win. This shows that the parties have a serious mistrust of the citizenry, which is something that I find very dangerous.

Now then, as Gerardo Medina says, we have three stages. They have to be discussed one by one, and a decision has to be made, at that time, as to whether they were well or poorly done, not wait until the end to complain about something that happened months ago during the preparation. Because this undermines a public act in which the citizenry placed their trust. Unless we learn to talk things over in earnest, we will only be contributing to the climate of uncertainty that does not exactly benefit democracy.

Jorge Alcocer: A clarification is needed here. The proposal that the PRI made in the Chamber of Deputies changes only the methods of control but does not resolve the problem of credibility. This is why there is no political accord. What is needed is a law that gives assurances to all of us but especially to citizens. This has to be the starting point. The problem with the PRI proposal is that it merely transfers the control that PRI has today over all electoral bodies to the president of the republic so that he can name a series of officials who will then have control. We have another problem to resolve in Mexico: the link between the majority party and government bodies. We need impartial bodies, as well as polling places at which the citizens, as the constitution says, sit on the electoral boards. But if these citizens are chosen from among the PRI ranks in a fraudulent manner, there's no credibility. And, moreover, if the electoral tribunal is made up of judges who are not credible because they are not impartial and because the law does not give them the tools to administer electoral justice, then we're going to remain mired in conflict, and the citizens are the losers in such a conflict.

Rolando Cordera: And the parties too.

Jorge Alcocer: The parties too. But then the political parties have to be committed to democracy and to the citizenry, for the benefit of a party system that will enable the country to move into the future with secure constitutional mechanisms.

Gerardo Medina: Fairness in the availability of funds from both public and other sources must be established very clearly before the elections. The country would move forward enormously and a degree of confidence in elections would be restored if our opposition parties did not, every time, have to face off against not just a party but the entire administration using the party's initials. The administration provides equipment, people and law-enforcement personnel for the benefit of a party. We have to fight this.

Santiago Onate: What is vital to us in PRI is redefining our relationship with the administration, our place alongside the other political parties, our status as a party among parties. And these are the demands of our fellow party members. This has to be implemented, and there has to be fairness in access to a series of assets that belong to all Mexicans, not one political party.

Rolando Cordera: In PRI's view, should the principle of fairness also govern the process of setting up the electoral authority?

Santiago Onate: As far as we're concerned, making a qualitative change in electoral processes so that they become truly impartial means removing the parties from them. Elections must be seen as a task that the State cannot renounce, especially as concerns their organization and preparation. The government, the citizenry, and the parties must be involved here, in different ways. We do not think that a system can be neutral if the entire election is left in the hands of political parties.

II

Rolando Cordera: The new Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures (COFIPE) was published in the DIARIO OFICIAL [the federal government's Official Gazette] on 15 August 1990. At what point are we in this long, complicated, and at times infuriating phase of political reform, which began in the late 1970's in our country? What is the intent of this new code?

Jose Woldenberg: Before assessing the new electoral code we have to see on what points it moves us forward, on what points it moves us backward, and even on what points no decision has been made. The new code leaves a number of matters pending, and they will have to be reconsidered shortly. For example, the makeup of the Senate of the Republic, the government of the Federal District, and the mass media. These matters have been put on ice and demand a review.

On a number of other issues, arrangements that could continue to play a positive role in a democracy have been discarded. For example, joint candidacies, which have been abolished today, or the category of political associations, which have also been left out of the legislation.

Yet, if this legislation is respected, we will have an election organization and a vote count that are better, more reliable than in the past. The elections will be organized by more balanced groups. Before, from the very beginning a single force, PRI, had more votes than the rest of the parties combined and even than the state representatives on the Federal Electoral Commission. Today there is a much better system of checks and balances. The fact that there is going to be a preliminary recount of the returns from the polling places at the District Committee on the very night of the elections may make for a better vote count from the start. The list of voters and the voter credential are also gains. The tribunal to settle electoral disputes is better designed, with regional divisions, with investigating judges, and above all, its rulings must be accepted.

Santiago Onate: The Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures is a response to very clear demands that the political parties and researchers on this subject had been making. It provides for an impartial organization whose structure will enable the elections to be organized properly, all the way from the upper levels to the polling-place level. It also consolidates the role of citizens at the polling places, the presence of the parties, the ease of reaching a result, and as Jose Woldenberg indicated, the reporting of results on the same night as the elections. Finally, electoral disputes are turned over to another impartial body of a clearly judicial nature that can decide over and above the parties, handing down rulings that are in keeping with the law, not in response to political pressure. We think that the code will have to be complemented by a new mind-set, which will decide whether these provisions are fully effective in the transformation of our democracy.

Jorge Alcocer: This is the third time in ten years that Mexico has a new electoral law: 1979, 1986, 1990. And in all three cases we have to admit that there was progress. The 1979 law broadened party participation. The 1986 law increased the number of deputies and broadened the participation of minority parties in Congress. There are gains in the 1990 law too. But in all three cases some things were left pending.

Ten years later, some things have not been corrected, and when an election is held under a new law, what we failed to put right comes back to haunt us and leaves a bad taste in our mouths when the time comes to discover the truth about an election outcome. There are changes for the better in the new code too, but more than just major issues were left pending, as Jose Woldenberg indicated; there are also problems that undermine the ballot safeguards and respect for the vote. For example, the polling place. I would like to point out that we were very close to a broad national accord. The PRD was one step away from casting a yes vote and signing the accord. Why didn't we join in the accord? For two main reasons. The code weakens the system of vote safeguards because of the way that the polling-place boards are constituted. The code, the makeup of the board, offers a possibility of manipulation. Furthermore, the major issue of the impartiality of electoral bodies is still up for discussion.

Juan Miguel Alcantara: The new rules guarantee the two major objectives in elections. First, impartiality and equitable treatment for political parties, as the party of the State ceases to exist and no longer draws on public funds or the labor of civil servants. Second, on election day citizens can be sure that their votes will be respected.

What gains can citizens see in this new election law? In the first place, there will be a new voter credential and a new list of voters, with features insuring that the people who ought to be on the list are and that those who shouldn't be aren't. From now on the list of voters will have a section in which the citizen will put his thumbprint, signature, and if appropriate, a photograph.

Moreover, factors that undermined the vote have been eliminated. Citizens can now sit on the polling-place boards. Lots will be drawn from among all citizens, and 20 percent of each electoral section will be picked. The polling-place boards will no longer have to consist of PRI section members. There are other safeguards. The ballots that are going to be used are going to be stamped at the polling place before the election begins to prevent ballot-box stuffing and multiple voting.

And there are other fundamental issues. The Mexican people know that the Interior Secretariat indeed organized the elections through a single body, the Federal Electoral Commission, on which all parties were represented. But the Interior Secretariat was really the one that organized elections, with the support of the Internal Affairs Secretariats of the states.

Santiago Onate: There is another substantial change with regard to impartial bodies. The law in our country evolved in the direction that bodies were considered to be impartial to the extent that they were made up primarily of representatives of the political parties. The new code acknowledges elections as a function of the State, not the administration. It creates an autonomous body with its own funds and made up of officials who are going to be regarded as professionals: representatives of political parties and citizens. As for the makeup of the polling-place board, the law provides that lots can be drawn among the citizens who are registered to vote there. Whoever emerges from this selection process will be trained and evaluated objectively.

Rolando Cordera: Who's going to evaluate them?

Santiago Onate: The commission [junta] that trains them. The commission is a body set up by electoral officials, professionals with job stability, above and beyond the comings and goings of six year terms. And the parties can, if they want, monitor the entire process of drawing lots and training personnel and all of the provisions of Article 193, Paragraph 2. Now then, as for the presence of the Executive Branch in this organization, those who object to the procedure say that ultimately the president of the republic is not just a member of PRI but the leader of that party. We are certain that he will discharge all-important functions like this as the chief of state, with the responsibilities that this entails.

Jose Woldenberg: We now have to look at each step in the electoral process: how the list of voters is drawn up, how the credentials are issued, how the elections are organized, from the polling place to the General Council. This will represent an attempt to see how the votes are tallied, how the ballots themselves are cast, and how the elections are certified. I'll try, however, to compare very briefly what it used to be like before and how it is now with a better system of checks and balances. Before, the interior secretary was on the Federal Electoral Commission. Today, the interior secretary will again be on the

General Council. There used to be representatives of the Legislature, one deputy and one senator, always from PRI. Now, the state representatives can be from several political forces. By law in the Chamber of Deputies the majority party will elect one and the largest minority party another; in other words, the deputies will be from PRI and PAN, and the senators from PRI and the PRD. The parties used to be represented proportionally, which in 1988 gave us the following situation: PRI had 16 representatives, and the rest of the parties had 12 in all, so that even if the state officials banded together (which was highly unlikely), PRI still had a majority. Now, under the new arrangement, PRI will have four representatives, PAN two, and the other parties one.

How will the six magistrates be appointed? The president of the republic will indeed nominate them, but the Chamber of Deputies must confirm them by a two-thirds vote. And the president of the republic is obliged to submit a list of not six but at least 12 magistrates. The political forces have another chance here to appoint a magistrate by consensus. If the political forces other than PRI do not take part in this vote, the president's nominees will have to be chosen by lots, and in that case the entire system of checks and balances, in a somewhat baroque style if you wish, would collapse. But I think that politically it's designed so that his nominees can be accepted by the parties and so that we get off to a good start.

Juan Miguel Alcantara: It surprises me that Santiago Onate regards what were PAN proposals as progress in the law. We found it very hard to get the PRI deputies to accept them. PAN finds the law satisfactory, to an extent. We've just gone through the penultimate of the three stages of this political reform, one that is very closely tied to the final one and that has to do with making sure that votes count. I liken all this to train tracks. One rail is the law. The other is the willingness of the administration and of PRI to abide by the law. As long as they are willing to observe the law, the country will be able to move peacefully towards democracy. However, as soon as the administration or PRI stray from the law, from what the new Electoral Code expressly provides, any possibility of a democratic transition is derailed. We must not create exaggerated expectations with this new law.

Now then, by having the Interior Secretariat stand to one side in conducting electoral processes, the law has created the embryo of a fourth branch of government. Under the regulatory law, there is already a fourth branch in Mexico alongside the three federal branches. If the law is interpreted and enforced to the letter, the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) and the Federal Electoral Tribunal are under neither the Executive Branch nor any of the other branches. Obviously, there are checks and balances and the necessary cooperation among branches in appointing the members of these two bodies, as in any State in which the rule of law prevails. There has to be cooperation in appointing the members of the key bodies of this new election authority, and I don't think this has been emphasized strongly enough. To me, the structural side of this political reform is: Where are all of the other safeguards for appointing the future members of the electoral bodies?

Jorge Alcocer: I'm more skeptical. If, like Woldenberg, we compare these checks and balances with the ones we had before, we agree. But the real world gets in the way of our theory: the separation of PRI and the State. I'm not the one saying it either. The members of PRI point to the president of the republic as the ex officio leader of their party.

So then, those of us in the other parties have a problem with the credibility issue. The problem is not one of checks and balances; it concerns how we are going to proceed in disentangling this Gordian knot of our political system.

Now then, I'm not just skeptical. I also think that they were altogether arbitrary in deciding on the makeup of the local and district councils. Executive officials have been given voting rights on these bodies, which are copies of the governing body of the elections in each state and each district. A hybrid body has been created in which an official who is technically working for it is now part of it and has voting rights. The director of the IFE bureaucracy does not vote in the upper-level body, but his subordinates have voting rights in the lower-level bodies. This is an outrage that can be explained only by the desire of PRI and the administration to maintain a certain balance of power within these bodies. We were never given a logical explanation why the makeup of these bodies was, in a way, weakened, except that 11 votes were needed on one side and ten on the other. This refers to all of the parties, ten, PRI included, and 11 on the other side. This weakens the safeguards and jeopardizes impartiality. This is why the PRD proposed changes on these two points, in addition to holding the second drawing of lots at polling places to insure complete impartiality.

We don't want everything to be decided by lots; we just want a system that provides safeguards. What exam is going to be given to the citizens at the polling places? If it's 20 percent of them, we're talking about ten million citizens. Who's going to conduct ten million exams in this country? Here is an observation about something that Juan Miguel Alcantara said: that the Interior Secretariat has been put to one side. I would say that it's been put so much to one side that the interior secretary presides over everything.

Juan Miguel Alcantara: Until 1988, elections were conducted by all of the personnel of the Interior Secretariat with the assistance of the internal affairs secretaries of the states and even with the assistance of certain mayors. What remains of the Interior Secretariat's presence? The only thing that remains is that one of the 21 members of the General Council will represent the Executive Branch, and that will be the interior secretary, who will chair the council. But no other Interior Secretariat personnel, at least under the law, may be involved in electoral processes.

Rolando Cordera: And what about the designation of authorities on the state and local level?

Santiago Onate: We had various discussions and took various stands on that. To us the guiding principle of the new electoral bodies is professionalism, so that they are made up of professionals who enjoy job security, are competent, and have the tools to perform their tasks. The problem here with the PRD is that they have always rejected officials of this kind, so much so that Jorge Alcocer spoke here of bureaucracy in the derogatory sense that the word has. They can't conceive of a professional service, they don't want one. They prefer direct negotiations, pressures among parties. This isn't what we're after; we want institutionalization.

The local executive boards are going to meet and write up a full-fledged draft that will be brought to the council. The citizen councilmen and the party representatives will debate it there and vote on it when decisions have to be recorded. The members of the local executive board are indeed going to vote. I don't see this model as objectionable enough to have prevented the country from having an electoral law endorsed by all political parties.

Jose Woldenberg: As regards a professional electoral system, the issue goes beyond the vote. We're trying to innovate in a sense, to develop a new method of recruiting and training election officials who will now be under the Federal Electoral Institute, not directly under the Interior Secretariat. To sum it up in one sentence: if this professional body is really a State body, it can be impartial; if it is an administration body, it will obviously not be. I see this as the core issue rather than the vote. That's how I see it.

Unfortunately, the electoral legislation that we've come up with doesn't please everyone, and I think that this is one of the fundamental elements for democratic competition: a regulatory framework that provides guarantees to all participants who agree on the framework, at which point the contest starts.

Other pending issues are self-certification and the formula for assigning the multimember district deputies on the basis of this initial proportionality, which tends to benefit the smaller parties. But I would put the latter issue on a different level.

Jorge Alcocer: Whether officials should rotate is not a minor issue, nor one of mere interpretation. Jose Woldenberg says: if they act as State officials, they will act impartially. I say: if they act as State officials, they shouldn't vote, because the electoral bodies in which they work not only prepare the process but are also now going to have a certification phase, because they're going to decide who is to be given the proof that someone won. The PRD proposed a different formula that kept 11 votes, which were not party votes, against ten party votes. But the response that they gave us was: And who represents the administration? That was the response of the PRI delegate when we proposed taking the vote away from officials. Woldenberg wants them to be State officials, and PRI tells us that they represent the administration.

Rolando Cordera: Something appeared in the press about the idea that any information, any speculation about election returns will be penalized. This also came out at the sessions of the Senate.

Santiago Onate: It is extremely important to discuss this issue because this and other issues in the electoral debate seem to attract more attention when they are minor issues rather than clear-cut distortions of what the law says. This is not a law for the PRD or for students of elections. This law, passed by Congress, aims specifically at party officials who engage in deceit and spread false information about elections, false information about election returns. What does this mean? What are the implications of saying that 16 ballot boxes were stolen from polling places when the ballot boxes are in place and being used. There will be criminal penalties when reports like this are spread to create unrest or cause some sort of disturbance when there are no grounds for it.

Second, there will be criminal penalties when a party official fraudulently spreads false reports about the official returns on the tally sheets. The citizenry must have this certainty. This does not mean that election returns cannot be challenged, nor does it mean that you can't go to the Electoral Disputes Tribunal to check a tally sheet. What is being prevented is fraudulent information, falsehoods.

Rolando Cordera: What is the outlook, and even the outcome, of the new Electoral Code?

Jose Woldenberg: All laws can be judged on their own and in terms of their effects. The letter of the new law contains major advances that cannot be underestimated with regard to organization and the vote count. The professional electoral service is, to a great extent, an attempt to forestall the sort of elections that have always been designed and organized from the Interior Secretariat. Since elections can't be organized by the parties either, a professional electoral service is needed. I don't mean by this that the problem has been solved. The service will have to be evaluated; we have to see how it develops. But I think that this is the outlook for the upcoming elections.

The big test for this legislation will be 1991. No legislation can endure unless the political will exists to respect the vote and have it respected and unless there is a true commitment to democracy. In the area of elections this means respect for the decision that has been made at the ballot box. At the same time, 1991 will be the right time to take stock and make the necessary adjustments and reforms in this law governing elections.

Jorge Alcocer: The law indeed exists. But now we move into the realm of practice, and if in practice those whom I and my party contend retain control of the electoral process lack political will, then the law will mean only gains on paper for us. We need clean, credible elections. A law exists. If through this law parties and citizens succeed in guaranteeing a presence at the polling places and in [electoral] bodies, monitoring by citizens and monitoring by parties, then we will have made progress. Accordingly, I am rather optimistic.

Juan Miguel Alcantara: Democracy is too serious a thing to be left in the hands of just the government. And votes are too serious to be left only in the hands of the parties, as the PRD wanted. The PAN position is that the responsibility for preparing the elections is threefold: the government, the political parties, and the citizens must take part. In this connection, we all have to fulfill our share of responsibility in moving our country towards a democratic transition.

Santiago Onate: We are very optimistic about this new electoral law, among other things because it is the result of earnest efforts among party forces that are committed to democracy. We realize the difficulties involved in bringing this accord before each of the political parties, but an accord in Congress is much more important. This new exercise of debate and formulation could be a foundation for new practices as well, among these committed forces and among all the parties involved in the process. It could also be a foundation for greater responsibility, greater honesty, but also greater credibility in the electorate's eyes. We must make it clear to the electorate what an election is, how it is won, how it is lost, and not always resort to impugning elections and labels that have no basis in fact and which do not help further political involvement. We trust that this new attitude will emerge by 1991.

Costa Rica

GAR Uncovers Assorted Munitions Near Border

PA0312223790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1741 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] San Jose, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Costa Rican Rural Police [GAR] found seven AK-47 rifles, one RPG-7 rocket launcher, approximately 3,000 rounds of ammunition of various calibers, and other war materiel near the border with Nicaragua on 30 November, a police source reported today.

The weapons were concealed in a plot of land one km away from the 300-km long border with Nicaragua, a smuggling zone for war materiel belonging to the now dismantled Nicaraguan contras.

Three weeks ago, the GAR also found 500 rounds of AK-47 ammunition at various sites near the border, which has forced the police to increase the number and duration of its patrols to stop the arms smuggling, the source added.

According to unofficial sources, nearly 100 rifles, mines, rocket launchers, combat radio sets, and thousands of rounds of ammunition have been confiscated so far this year. This type of equipment is allegedly being sold in Costa Rica to common criminals or foreigners linked to drug trafficking.

The GAR has received reports on the existence of a large number of weapons concealed in the northern part of the country and near the Caribbean coast, where patrolling is more difficult because of the rugged terrain.

Minister Comments on Cuban Political Refugees

PA0412043290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2141 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] San Jose, 3 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus said today that his and Nicaraguan government are studying defections by Cuban residents in Managua because they fear that the number could increase.

In reference to three Cubans who defected in Managua and later were received in Costa Rica as refugeess, Niehaus said that his country will maintain its "traditional support for the right to asylum."

Two Cuban doctors and a nun have been in Costa Rica since last week. They arrived in this country under diplomatic protection after seeking asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua.

Regarding the Cubans who are in Managua and who may not want to return to Cuba, Niehaus said that Costa Rica expects Nicaragua "to respect its international obligations."

Niehaus believes it is possible that more of the 300 Cubans in Nicaragua—as a result of an agreement signed in 1980 between Havana and Managua—could defect.

Niehaus said: "It is very possible" that the number of Cuban defections could increase. He noted that the Nicaraguan Government has an "obligation" to care for them and for this reason, the two countries are holding talks.

The Costa Rican foreign minister said: "The Nicaraguan Government has a responsibility to grant them diplomatic asylum because they (the Cubans) are residents of that country."

Costa Rica and Cuba have not had diplomatic relations since 1961, and the current Costa Rican Government is not interested in reestablishing them as long as the island "remains undemocratic," an official source said.

El Salvador

President Willing To Declare Christmas Truce

PA0412040290 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0311 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said this evening that his government is willing to declare a truce on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, although he clarified that he sincerely wishes to end the war as soon as possible.

President Cristiani said that the Salvadoran people could celebrate the upcoming Christmas and New Year season without military action since the government would be willing to declare a truce on the occasion of those festivities.

Last Sunday, the Catholic Church demanded that the two sides silence the rifles to create an atmosphere of peace and not of war during the Christmas season.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] Msgr. Rivera y Damas has not talked to us yet, but we are willing to meet with him.

[Reporter] Do you think it would be possible to declare a truce?

[Cristiani] I believe it is feasible. As I said, we have not talked with Msgr. Rivera y Damas yet, but we would be glad to meet with him.

[Reporter] Would you call for the declaration of a truce right now, Mr. President?

[Cristiani] I believe so. Our people deserve tranquillity. The recent terrorist actions of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] have affected the civilian population the most, and you have witnessed that. I believe this is a good enough reason to stop this [word indistinct], which is completely useless and totally pointless and which renders everything more difficult and makes nothing easier. This has been stated by the entire international community. We are willing to provide peace and tranquillity to the Salvadoran people. [end recording]

President Cristiani, however, said that the truce should be achieved once and for all. He added that he is optimistic about the peace process of dialogue and negotiation, which will continue in December. He asserted that if the two sides show flexibility, they will be able to reach agreement despite the existing obstacles.

This afternoon, President Cristiani inaugurated the Christmas and New Year season at the presidential palace gardens. In his speech, he advocated the end of the Salvadoran conflict.

Rebels Report Damages, Downing of 20 Aircraft

PA0312192290 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Throughout the past few years, the morale of the antidemocratic army has been boosted by the support it has received from the Air Force. The Salvadoran Air Force has been the instrument used to bomb and murder the civilian population. In light of the above, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has refused to remain quiet, and during the present military campaign, as in the past, it has continued to fight the Air Force.

The following is a summary of significant antiaircraft actions:

On 20 November, when we launched our "Punishment to the Anti-Democratic Armed Forces" campaign and attacked the Ilopango Air Force Base, we damaged one C-130 plane, an O2 push-pull light aircraft, two Huey 500 helicopters, two A-37 planes, and one C-47 plane [four-second break in reception]. Likewise, we damaged one 02 push-pull light aircraft in Chalatenango.

On 21 November in Usulutan Department, our antiaircraft forces downed an 02 push-pull light aircraft and damaged a helicopter gunship and a C-47 plane.

On 22 November on the road between Suchitoto and San Martin, Cuscatlan Department, two helicopters—a transport helicopter and a WASP helicopter—were damaged.

On 23 November our national army's antiaircraft forces downed an A-37 plane in the area of Santa Elena, Usulutan Department.

On 25 November a UH-1N helicopter gunship was downed in the area between San Agustin and Jiquilisco, Usulutan Department.

On 28 November a helicopter was damaged in the Plan Chino-El Naranjito area, Dulce Nombre de Maria jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department.

On 29 November a UH-1N helicopter gunship was downed in the area of Suchitoto, Cuscatlan Department.

On 30 November we damaged a UH-1N helicopter in Ocotillo de Cacaopera, Usulutan Department.

In all, 20 aircraft have been damaged or downed during the current campaign. Six aircraft were destroyed or downed, and 14 were damaged.

UNTS: Government Plans To Squash Opposition

PA0312194490 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 29 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Members of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers [UNTS] have accused the government of implementing a plan to annihilate the opposition, thus reducing public protest and continuing to govern for a minority. Rosario Acosta said the government plans to carry out actions against mass movements and then accuse the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] of perpetrating the actions. The government's goal is to turn international attention away from the military operation that began last week.

In the past days, the government and guerrillas have accused each other of preparing a plan to annihilate religious, political, labor, and student leaders who oppose the Alfredo Cristiani government. A communique issued by the government accused the FMLN of planning to perpetrate these actions to make the people hold the government responsible. The rebels stated the Armed Forces want to get rid of those who oppose the cost of the military operations.

The labor leaders added that the government has begun to implement the plan mentioned by the FMLN by conducting raids and being responsible for the disappearance of persons who do not support the government's policies. The UNTS leaders stated the government is trying to destroy mass movements to stop the protests that have been held against the imposition of laws so that a minority can keep on growing richer.

Recent FMLN Offensive Activities Cited

PA0312220990

[Editorial report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 1658 GMT on 3 December broadcasts a bulletin on military activity.

The station first said that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) "at 0200 today attacked the 5 November and Cerron Grande hydroelectric dams with 81mm mortars and RPG-7 rockets, hitting and setting fire to the control rooms and transformers."

The station continued to report that "urban commandos attacked enemy positions in San Jacinto with hand grenades, inflicting eight casualties. On 27 and 28 November, the commandos damaged 21 transformers at several points in San Salvador."

In addition, the bulletin reported that "FMLN forces last night attacked security forces protecting geothermal wells between Montanitas and Mercedes de Berlin in Usulutan," but that "there are no reports on the number of casualties inflicted on the enemy or the damage to the installations. Other members of the FMLN took control of a stretch of the Inter-American Highway near Santa Anita and blew up three utility poles supporting 115,000-volt cables. Others blew up three more utility poles supporting 115,000-volt cables near Hacienda Santa Anita in Usulutan."

Finally, the station said that "at 0700 today, forces of the National Army for Democracy attacked a Cuscatlan Battalion company in Finca Leonor and Hacienda San Jose in Chinameca." The government soldiers are said to "have fled in disarray" with the guerrillas in hot pursuit until they reached Macho Muerto in San Miguel. "At 1730 on 29 November, our men attacked members of the Conchagua Battalion in Talavera, Corinto, where three of the enemy were badly wounded."

Army Claims 13 Rebels Killed in 1 Dec Clash

PA0412035190 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1750 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, report—read by announcer]

[Text] The Army has inflicted 13 dead on the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in Santa Elena, Usulutan. Thirteen FMLN terrorists were killed; at least 10 more were wounded and later evacuated during clashes on 1 December with 3d Infantry Brigade troops in the vicinity of the hamlet of Joya Ancha Arriba of Santa Elena, Usulutan Department. Four Army troops were wounded and one 90-mm rifle, one M-79 rocket launcher, one M-16 rifle, cartridges, clips, and other war materiel were seized.

In another report, Military Detachment 3 based in La Union reported that one subversive was killed and seven wounded during clashes on 1 December near El Salamo, Corinto Jurisdiction, Morazan Department. The Army did not sustain any casualties, according to the report.

In another report from this morning, FMLN subversive groups, which were posted more than one km northwest, opened fire six times with mortars on 4th Infantry Brigade installations, but there were no casualties or damage. The report noted that only one of the mortars hit an area near the aforementioned installations. The attack occurred at approximately 2340 last night, and the subversives were captured by troops in a vanguard position.

At the same time, the commando of the same brigade reported that one soldier was killed and two others were wounded at noon on 1 December when FMLN terrorists ambushed a military patrol in the vicinity of Lodera of the township of San Rafael, Chalatenango Department. In another report, troops of the Atonal Battalion found the body of a female terrorist near Buenavista in the city of Usulutan, where they also found four shells for 81-mm mortars and other types of military materiel that were used.

Meanwhile, subversives blew up three utility poles with dynamite in the hamlet of Montanita in Mercedes Umana, Usulutan Department. These incidents occurred last Saturday, the Coprefa report added. In addition to the quantitative material damage caused to the 5 December Dam on the morning of 1 December, the terrorists also damaged 11 civilian homes in Potonico, Chalatenango Department. According to the report by Military Detachment 2, the terrorists opened fire indiscriminately with RPG-7 and RPG-18 rocket launchers against installations of the 5 December Hydroelectric Dam, but some of the explosives hit private homes.

The command of Military Detachment 2 condemned these actions as grave human rights violations on the part of the FMLN, which is mistakenly using the public service infrastructure as military targets, causing considerable damage to homes of citizens in general.

Also, Mr. Napoleon Guillermo Morales, 43, was killed when urban terrorists set off a bomb at 2015 last Saturday near the old Montserrat farm in Soyapango, according to a report by the local authorities. The report added that the body of Mr. Morales was found by his wife, who went out to look for him when he was late in getting home, the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, FMLN terrorists kidnapped Mr. Roberto Salazar, manager of a textile factory, in a place known as La Pedrera, in the township of El Pombo, Santa Ana. The incident occurred at 1800 yesterday afternoon while the victim was traveling in his vehicle, license place 155367, in which the terrorists took him to an unknown destination.

Guatemala

Government Leaders Support Resolution on Iraq

PA3011223490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2106 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio and Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera announced today that the Guatemalan Government supports the UN resolution against Iraq.

The UN Security Council last night approved a resolution that authorizes the use of force against Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait before 15 January of next year.

Carpio said that the impact of the 2 August invasion is already being felt in Central America as far as oil is concerned; oil is "our Achilles heel."

"Whether or not there is a war, the oil problem is already affecting us," the vice president said.

The foreign minister said that the UN Security Council resolution is "the last opportunity given to the Iraqi Government and President Saddam Husayn to make a reasonable decision."

For developing countries, such as those in Central America, the outbreak of an armed conflict will have negative effects, especially for our economy, Rivera added.

The diplomat stressed that, as on previous occasions, Guatemala will support the UN proposal to resolve the Persian Gulf conflict.

Cerezo Will Not Meet Salinas Before Elections

PA0212183290 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo stated during an interview at the Presidential House on 28 November that he has decided not to meet with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari before the second round of the presidential elections on 6 January, so as not to create a problem in the electoral process.

The Guatemalan president explained that he plans to visit Mexico between 7 and 14 January 1991, but that if he cannot go, the elected candidate must do so.

Cerezo said that he informed President Salinas—through the Mexican Embassy in Guatemala—of the problems that would be caused if he left the country before the second round of elections. He added that the Mexican president agreed to reconsider the date.

President Cerezo said that he has not yet decided when he will meet with guerrilla commanders of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG). Cerezo said he has begun talks with the National Reconciliation Commission, which has met with all the sectors, to determine whether and when a meeting with the URNG is possible before he leaves office.

Government Falls Behind in Debt Payments

PA0212213190 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Nov 90 p 23

[Text] Fabian Pira, general manager of the Bank of Guatemala, has said that Guatemala currently owes $100 million in delayed foreign debt payments to the international financial institutions, particularly to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank.

It is not that the government is unwilling to pay the foreign debt, but rather that the country's financial situation is critical, and the executive branch has not had the liquidity to purchase foreign exchange, and like other economic institutions, it must acquire them from the Bank of Guatemala, he said.

As of September 30 1990, the foreign debt currently stands at $2.4 billion, because from December 1989 until now, one payment of $16 million has been made, which means that in 1990 we have paid more than we have received from abroad, Pira said.

We still have open credit with the IDB to some extent, but the World Bank has closed our lines of credit, and we are currently taking the necessary steps to try to catch up on our late foreign debt payments, Pira said.

Over 1,000 Policemen Fired for Criminal Offenses

PA0212025690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2035 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Colonel Julio Caballeros dismissed today 1,011 policemen who have been charged with various crimes.

Out of the 1,011 policemen, 998 have been turned over to the courts to answer charges of murder, rape, extortion, assault, and robbery, among others, Caballeros told the press.

"The remaining 13 policemen are being investigated, although they have been fired along with the other men," the official added.

Caballero said that the administration will continue with the plan to purge the security forces.

10 Killed, 17 Wounded in 'Uprising' Against Army

PA0212225390 Paris AFP in Spanish 2228 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 2 Dec (AFP)— Ten Guatemalan Indians were killed and 17 others were wounded today in Santiago Atitlan, west of Guatemala City, when an uprising against the Army and the police was crushed, a military source reported. Other sources indicate the number of victims could be much higher. In a communique, the Army said the "tragic" clash between the military and a "group of residents" took place at 0100 this morning, but the causes for the uprising were not explained.

Army Issues Communique

PA0312203690 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] The Information and Communication Department of the Army issued a communique yesterday afternoon that gives the public the official version of the incident that took place in Santiago Atitlan on 2 December:

"At 0700 GMT on 2 December, serious incidents took place in the Santiago Atitlan municipality, Solola Department, when several neighbors attacked the National Police Substation and the Military Detachment in that jurisdiction.

"As a consequence, as of this moment 10 civilians are reported dead and 17 wounded. The wounded have been taken to the Solola National Hospital.

"What motivated the neighbors to attack is still unknown. The only clue to this attack is that three National Police agents who were handing out notifications following a judge's orders were recently ambushed by eight armed men. Two of the policemen were wounded and are currently receiving medical help.

"Competent authorities and specialized personnel are investigating the case to determine the causes that led to these regrettable and tragic incidents, in order to allocate responsibility to those who may be involved.

"There will be more detailed information given later for national and international dissemination," ends the communique.

Attorney Promises Investigation

PA0312011690 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2359 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, 2 Dec (NOTIMEX)— Human rights attorney General Ramiro de Leon Carpio has promised the residents of Santiago Atitlan that the perpetrators of the massacre that took place early this morning will be brought to justice. "I cannot find the words as an attorney general or as a person to describe what I saw," Ramiro de Leon Carpio said after he visited the town, located 125 km from Guatemala City.

De Leon Carpio pledged to conduct an in-depth investigation into the incident in which more than 12 people were killed, including a child and two adolescents. Approximately 20 other people were wounded in a clash between Guatemalan soldiers and town residents. He asked the people of the Suturil ethnic group for "time, patience, and calm" to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The incident took place after the Santiago Atitlan residents went to a military detachment located one km from the town. They wanted the military authorities to explain the actions of several soldiers who had gotten drunk in town and killed a person. According to witnesses, the group was headed by Mayor Delfino Rodas and mayor-elect Salvador Ramirez. The group carried white flags as a sign that they were not going to attack. The detachment soldiers met the residents by opening fire on them, although why they did so is not known.

"I will deliver a detailed report on what happened here to President Vinicio Cerezo, the Supreme Court of Justice, and the government and defense ministers," the attorney said. He added that "I will forward the request from the Santiago Atitlan residents to remove the military detachment to President Cerezo, who is the military force's supreme commander." The area residents gave De Leon Carpio a letter with this request.

"What can we do if the Army attacks the people and we are unarmed?" one of the mothers of the murdered adolescents said as the area residents held a wake. "My Guiro died; he was going to attend the fifth grade," a bereaved father said. He added, "why did a soldier kill my son?"

De Leon Carpio promised that he would tell the commander of the military zone in Solola Department that the town's residents and civil authorities are afraid of possible reprisals.

Soldiers Transferred

PA0412024690 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 12

[Text] All of the military personnel at the military detachment in Santiago Atitlan municipality have been transferred to Military Zone No. 14, located in Solola Department. At 1630 on 2 December, approximately 200 soldiers were brought in to reinforce the soldiers still at the site of the massacre.

Sublieutenant Julio Cesar Andrino, acting comander of the military detachment in Santiago Atitlan, told the national and foreign press that the soldiers who were present at the time of the incident have been transferred for security reasons.

He also said that the information he was reporting had been provided to him because he was not at the site of the incident. He wrote down, however, the names of all the national and foreign reporters who had arrived to investigate the incident.

The sublieutenant indicated that the following people visited the military detachment after the incident: The attorney general for human rights, the outgoing mayor, and the newly elected mayor of the municipality, the members of the main association in Santiago Atitlan, and National Police Director Colonel Julio Caballeros, who arrived aboard a police helicopter.

Panama

Government, State Unions Fail To Reach Agreement

PA0412041790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The government and state unions have not been able to resume their dialogue and the radical strike will proceed as planned.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified workers] Right to life! Unity, unity, unity!

[Reporter] With this slogan, the National Coordinating Board for the Right to Life flatly said today that it will not budge.

[Labor leader Rolando Miller] We have definitely organized this properly. There is no possibility that we will cancel this activity. The 4 December march and 5 December strike will go on as planned. We would be willing to refrain from any forceful actions in the near future, if we were to negotiate, which is the correct thing to do; it is what we need.

[Reporter] Tomorrow union leaders will test their ability to rally the workers to take action in the midst of serious allegations that, for the most part, most of these men did nothing to improve the situation of public employees during the past regime when the workers' conditions were worse. The union leaders say that the workers at banana companies and a large number of state-owned institutions support the call for a strike.

Meanwhile, there is confusion regarding bus and taxi services because the leaders of those sectors have said that they support the call for a strike, but their rank and file have said the opposite.

The government has said that the action is unjustified.

[Labor Minister Jorge Ruben Rosas] The workers of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE], the Port Authority, and the National Telecommunications Institute [INTEL] earn the highest median salary. That is, a median salary of $772.09 at the Port Authority, $734.20 at IRHE, and $589.95 at INTEL. IRHE and INTEL workers also have insurance benefits. This is okay with me. They also enjoy a 50-percent discount on their electricity and telephone bills as well as other benefits that other public employees do not enjoy. In my opinion, these workers have the least justification to participate in this action.

[IRHE Union Leader Isaac Rodriguez] He should also mention the benefits enjoyed by ministers, legislators, and executive branch employees, who earn three times the median salary that he mentioned.

[Reporter] The government has pointed out that the dialogue will take place, but at a broader level with the participation of other segments of the population to reach national consensus. Although the march and strike are not intended to bog down the country's economy, they would hurt it because they would create an atmosphere of instability that will paralyze investments in a country that desperately needs capital to create jobs for more than 200,000 Panamanians who are currently unemployed.

Felipe Rodriguez, a member of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives, and prominent businessman, said that the private sector needs an appropriate atmosphere to invest.

[Rodriguez] We, the businessmen, are ready to defend our companies; to defend the principle of freedom of enterprise and to demonstrate that we are organized to repel any attempt to loot or vandalize. I believe that it is important for that the country to consolidate its democracy. I believe that we businessmen will play a very important role by showing the country that we really want to work.

[Reporter] There is talk of dismissing those public employees who fail to show up for work on 5 December. Those positions could be easily filled by a host of unemployed people. The labor leaders pointed out, however, that there are legal recourses at their disposal to counter a measure of this sort.

The march and the strike will go and the damage to the economy will be considerable. The public servants, by undertaking this action, are challenging the central government, which has often said that it will take disciplinary measures. [end recording]

Commission Communique Lists Worker Demands

PA0412011090 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p 38

[Communique issued by the Press and Agitation Commission of the National Coordinating Board for the Right to Life, in Panama City on 21 November]

[Text] National Coordinating Board for the Right to Life;

Herewith is a summary of our demands for the people to judge:

1. No privatization of state enterprises or their activities.

2. Repeal of amendments to the Labor Code.

3. End of unjust and illegal dismissals and immediate reinstatement of government employees.

4. Payment of the 13th month bonus and other bonuses.

5. Respect for labor laws, internal regulations, and agreements reached with state organizations.

6. Respect for labor organizations and their leaders.

7. The abolition of the war decrees and the antilabor decrees issued by the government.

8. Compliance with regulations on positions, duties, classifications, salary schedules, and evaluations.

9. Ratification and implementation of International Labor Office Agreement No. 151 . 10. Respect for the autonomy of state agencies.

11. Approval of a valid democratic civil service career system.

12. Rejection of the amendment intended to decrease the benefits contemplated in the Social Security Institute Law and in other social welfare laws.

13. Satisfactory resolution of the just demands of construction workers, street vendors, war refugees, and Loma Cova residents.

14. Resolution of the transportation problem, the right to autonomy of labor unions and cooperatives, the reenactment of the illegally suspended law on tax exemption, the granting of bus and taxi routes taking into consideration those currently held by existing groups, and the protection of operation permits.

15. Resolution of the problems of Paso Canoa and Guabito residents.

We ask the Panamanian people: Are these demands to the national government out of line or too extreme? The answer is obvious, in view of the most basic lack of common sense, including that of the planning minister.

The government is so blatantly immoral that the president of the Assembly's Budget Commission said (LA PRENSA, 20 November) that "the government will transfer to the 1991 budget a balance of $145 million that will not be used in 1990." It is crime against the Panamanian people for the Government—using the crisis as a pretext—to continue to fire thousands of mothers and fathers, refuse to pay the 13th month bonus to its employees, and bicker about medicine for thousands of old people, women, and children at the Social Security Institute. It does all this to boast that it has a fiscal surplus and to be in good standing with the IMF and the World Bank.

In view of our just demands, the president has stated that dialogue has taken place and that "there is nothing left to be discussed." Therefore, in view of the oligarchy's arrogance, we have no alternative but to resort to our strength as a class. It was not our intention to resort to the ultimate recourse, but the government has foreclosed all options. We are resorting to a right granted to us by the Constitution. We will use it sensibly and responsibly as often as necessary, and above all when our struggle is for a morally valid objective—the right to life, to our lives and those of our children.

The government leaders of today, who are yesterday's recalcitrant businessmen, are promoting with their antinational and unpopular economic strategy, a class struggle of unforeseeable consequences, which has brought so much pain and mourning to Central America. With a little bit of intelligence, it should be understood that it is better to assimilate the experiences of neighboring countries, because in the absence of legitimate leadership in Panama, a true prelate such as Oscar Arnulfo Romero would have to repeat: "Give at least a ring, or they will tear off your fingers..." There are thousands of poverty-stricken in this country. We do not know how long the people, who today hunger more than ever for bread, justice, and liberty, will put up with this.

We are concerned about the fate of 150,000 unemployed, 200,000 underemployed who earn meager wages, and 1 million poverty-stricken persons in this country, because they are our brothers and we belong to the same class. You, as government leaders, will never understand that, because you have never endured hunger or hardship. Therefore, we will pursue our struggle, that of the Panamanian people. We will march, united, despite all the threats, blackmail, pressure, and oligarchic uproar, more certain today than ever, that "all the people will save the people." Halt the demagoguery and government cynicism.

Panama, 21 November 1990

Press and Agitation Commission

Workers Confirm March, Strike on 4, 5 Dec

PA0312224190 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Dec 90 p A-1, A-2

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] The national 24-hour strike announced for 5 December by leading government and private sector workers' unions will indeed take place, since it appears impossible for us to obtain government responses to our demands, a source of the National Coordinating Committee for the Right to Life has reported.

The strike, which will be reinforced by a march tomorrow afternoon, was declared after government and union representatives failed to reach an understanding when the leaders rejected the government economic policy.

In a 13-point document, the workers demanded the elimination of the proposed Labor Code amendments, payment of the year-end or 13th month bonus to government employees, suspension of dismissals, and the reinstatement of approximately 300 government workers who have been fired over the past 11 months.

During the past seven days, strike organizers have stepped up their activities to increase the number of their supporters by visiting the country's nine provinces and posting propaganda leaflets throughout Panama City and the main provincial capitals.

The Coordinating Board of State Workers Unions, the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees [Fenasep], the National Council of Organized Workers [Conato], the General Union of Workers [UGT], and the leaders of the collective transportation system have confirmed their support of the march and the strike.

Private enterprise, the government, and even the Catholic Church, have criticized the strike.

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA has learned that, so far, the strike is supported by the Banana Workers' Unions of Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro; workers of the Panama Refinery and the Bayano Cement Enterprise; public utility labor unions that handle water, electricity, and telephones; workers at the ports of Balboa in Panama and Cristobal in Colon; and the workers' federations of the Social Security Fund, the University of Panama, the Colon Free Zone, the Victoria sugar mill, and the Mnistries of Finance, Public Works, Housing, Commerce, and Government and Justice.

Government and private sector labor unions are also demanding the resolution of problems pertaining to the Chorrillo war refugees, the squatters of Loma Cova, and respect for state-owned enterprises, among other things.

The government has reported that it is unable to meet a majority of the demands, but pledged to legislate for an administrative career and a general salary law for the public sector.

Approximately 12,000 workers have been fired over the past 12 months, allegedly for political reasons. Government sources, however, have reported that another 8,000 workers could be fired to meet the demands of the IMF and the World Bank to cut down on public sector expenditures.

Business sources, which have expressed concern over the probable looting of their stores, have increased the surveillance provided by privately run security agencies and have warned that they will order their guards to open fire to protect their businesses.

Ford, Legislators Comment on Planned Strike

PA0412024790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Panamanians have the right to protest as long as they do it within the law, Second Vice President Guillermo Ford said today:

[Begin recording] [Ford] I have always asked the people to think, especially in December. I have noticed that Panamanians want peace and calm, not public order disturbances.

As far as I know, there have been no breakthroughs in our talks with the workers. I reaffirm the government's willingness to listen to them, but not to renegotiate the 13 points that they have presented. Fore example, if they have other initiatives on how to reduce unemployment without disturbing public order, I would be the first one to welcome them.

The government already addressed those 13 points in writing, however, and a settlement was reached on many of them, but people have been led to believe that the government has rejected the unionists' 13 points and that is not true.

[Reporter] What will be the government's position should the strike take place?

[Ford] The workers will enjoy all constitutional guarantees. As the president said, this is a democracy. They have the right to march without disturbing the public and the mayor's office has already been advised about their march, as required by the Constitution. Should there be a public order disturbance, we will apply the law. The government is obliged to protect the life and honor of its citizens. [end recording]

In the opinion of most legislators, the strike announced by the labor sector is not the most appropriate measure at this time:

[Begin recording] [Legislator Mery Alfaro de Villageliu] If the workers want more jobs and benefits, they should not go against these goals by calling for a strike that I am very sure will be taken advantage of by those who want to sow chaos and dissension.

[Legislator Jose Domingo Torres] I wonder what moral authority the National Federation of Public Employee Associations leaders, such as Cesar Best, Hector Aleman, Miller, and others, have to call for a strike when they are, to a certain extent, to blame for the country's economic crisis. Instead of defending the interests of public servants, they urged them to join the Dignity Battalions and participate in demonstrations to support the Noriega regime. [end recording]

Editorial Praises Bush South American Tour

PA0412044490 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 29 Nov 90 p 4a

[Editorial: "George Bush's Tour to South America"]

[Text] Despite the difficulties that his trips to the Persian Gulf and the Middle East have entailed, U.S. President George Bush has managed to find the time in his busy international agenda to conduct his announced Latin American tour, during which he will discuss the signing of a free trade agreement with his colleagues from the area.

In keeping with his inclination to be one of the most international presidents to have occupied the White House, Bush arrived in Mexico just two days after his recent visit to Europe and the Middle East. On this occasion, his talks with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari at the border area not only involved the traditional friendship between the two countries and their mutual desire to expand their trade balance—especially in the field of Mexican oil exports—but to a large extent they were also the cornerstone of a new economic structure that should house future hemispheric economic ties.

We must begin by recognizing that this is a very special opportunity within the framework of the economic crisis Latin America is experiencing as a result of the intervention of negative factors, such as the state's exaggerated interference in the economic system. Except for slight differences, Bush will encounter similar situations in each of the countries he will visit during his Latin American tour. He will visit Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, and Uruguay. Argentina has failed to recover from the economic stagnation to which it was taken by the pseudonationalism preached by Juan Domingo Peron during the early 1940's, despite the unorthodox efforts of President Menem, a Peronist who has changed his philosophy. Similarly, Brazil has placed the critical responsibility of rebuilding an economic structure that was destroyed by hyperinflation that crushed the purchasing power of the national currency upon the shoulders of President Collor de Mello.

The Venezuela governed by President Carlos Andres Perez in his second presidential term is now facing a fortunate solution to its problems through the increase in their oil exports as a result of the Persian Gulf crisis. This increase will allow Venezuela to meet its pressing foreign debt obligations and to diversify its export production. Similarly, President Lacalle will have the opportunity to present a realistic view of the Uruguayan economy and the problems that obstruct meat and wool exports.

As for our country's relations with the United States, it is the right time for a thorough and realistic dialogue. Many things have happened between Panama and the United States since 20 December. The economic assistance that was promised to us has not changed the unemployment situation and the low rate of investment that we inherited from the dictatorship. In the same way that we should vigorously and resolutely demand fulfillment of the promises made to us, we should also sincerely admit that many of our current frustrations are to be blamed on ourselves. Panama is not doing its part in the investment and credit programs. We have failed to create a climate of stability and trust because of the government's inconsistencies and incongruities. That is why skepticism, insecurity, and uncertainty are eating away the possibilities of attracting fresh capital, as is revealed by the excess bank liquidity that remains idle.

If we want to benefit from a continental free trade zone, we must take responsibility for our own mistakes and not blame other countries for the disastrous consequences of our governmental inexperience and immaturity.

Endara Says Not To Ignore Signs of Recovery

PA0412005790 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 30 Nov 90 p 48B

[Report by Gionela Jordan V.]

[Text] Panamanian President Guillermo Endara said on 29 November that "no one can fail to see the positive signs" of economic recovery that the country is showing that foresee a promising future for us. President Endara made these statements at the inauguration of the new board of directors of the National Council of Private Enterprise (Conep).

The Panamanian president asserted that the country's imports and exports have increased. He alleged that commercial activity in the Colon Free Zone is greater this year than last year. Endara added that banks operating in Panama have increased their private deposits by over 60 million balboas and that canal tolls and the number of ships that transit the canal increased in 1990.

New Conep President Nathaniel Mendez Goytia said that "while living in democracy today, both the government and citizens face the challenge of rebuilding the country with almost nonexistent resources."

Mendez Goytia added that the country's current pseudolegal structures prevent our country's development and that "demagogy and legalized privileges" notoriously obstruct Panama's economic recovery.

The new Conep board of directors consists of the following members: Nathaniel Mendez Goytia, president; Mario Jaramillo, first vice president; Steve Nahem, second vice president; Jose A. Diaz, secretary; Juan D. Medrano U., treasurer; Jorge M. Arias, member; Nicolas Psychoyos, spokesman; Manuel Eskildsen, spokesman; and Ricardo Candanedo, spokesman.

Mendez Goytia, who will preside over the Conep board of directors until April 1991, has stated that "only a strengthened and invigorated private sector could be—as it should—the foundation and pillar of democracy." Mendez added that remnants of state-controlled private enterprises must disappear because they only consume the few resources that the private sector generates.

The new Conep president indicated that the expansion of the service and commercial markets; efficiency, which should lead to a more competitive industrial production; and privatization of unproductive state enterprises and goods are the current challenges and needs that the private sector is facing.

As for Panama's integration into other markets on the continent, Mendez Goytia stressed that these markets present an "interesting tendency" that should not be disregarded, but that should also be very carefully studied to avoid harming local interests.

Poll Rates Top Leadership Efficiency, Popularity

PA0212162390 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by Nubia Aparicio S.]

[Text] A poll of 902 people of both sexes has revealed that the public opinion of the efficiency of President Guillermo Endara's government has deteriorated markedly. Many of the people polled believe there is corruption, although they also believe that the government has been overly criticized.

According to the poll, 48 percent of Panamanians believe there is an unacceptable degree of corruption in the national government. It was noted that the lower the education level of the people polled, the higher the percentage of people who believe the government has deteriorated.

The poll conducted especially for LA PRENSA by Dichter & Neira from 8 to 13 November also revealed strong criticism of the government's lack of achievements.

To guarantee the maximum representativity of the Panamanian people's opinion, the poll included the nine areas of the country having the greatest population density.

Adults were polled taking into consideration their sex, education, and labor status. Of the people polled, 49.1 percent were men and 50.9 percent were women.

Through strictly scientific methods, the pattern of the 1990 census was used. The guarantee of equality was achieved through random selection.

The poll included 59.6 percent of people with jobs; 36.3 percent unemployed, among them housewives and students; and 4.1 percent retirees.

When asked if the present government promotes a climate of true democracy, 29 percent of the people answered positively. Meanwhile, during a poll taken in August by the same company, 41 percent of the people answered positively to the same question.

This result might be because of a series of unfulfilled expectations and hopes raised when the country became democratic.

Regarding the efficiency of the government leaders, the poll revealed that President Endara received 25.2 percent, First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon received 19.5 percent, and Second Vice President Guillermo Ford received 56.4 percent support.

These figures show that public opinion about President Endara has decreased seven percent as compared to August. Arias Calderon decreased nine percent, while Ford increased five percent.

Although the country's main problem is unemployment, this has not affected the political image of Ford, who as part of this government is responsible for solving the unemployment problem.

Vice President Arias Calderon's political image has apparently been affected because of the difficult task he has faced in forming the new Public Force.

When asked what the present government's main achievement has been, 42 percent said the government has achieved nothing. Nineteen percent said that the country's democratization has been its main achievement.

Other achievements mentioned were freedom of expression, with eight percent, and the dismantling of the Army (seven percent).

If elections had been held during the time the poll was taken, almost 62 percent said they would not vote for the present government, while 37.9 percent said they would support it.

It is surprising to see how the government's popularity has decreased. In May 1989 it was elected by the greatest majority in the nation's history, with a margin of three to one, according to experts in electoral matters.

The Dichter and Neira poll revealed that if elections had been held in November, Endara would have received 25 percent of the vote; Arias Calderon, 22 percent; and Ford, 58 percent.

When asked if they thought that the interparty struggles for political space was to be expected within a democracy, 38 percent agreed in November, while 52 percent had agreed in August .

The poll also included questions about the health and education sectors, which are vital to the country. Fifty-three percent of the people polled thought that the health sector had not improved since before the invasion. There are divided opinions about the education sector.

In the next five days, LA PRENSA will publish aspects of the poll that deal with demilitarization, relations with the United States, the country's economic situation, and the popularity of government officials. On 8 December we will publish a supplement with the poll in detail.

Indicates Mistrust of Police, PTJ

PA0212173490 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Nov 90 p 1A

[Report by Nubia Aparicio S.]

[Text] An opinion poll conducted by the firm Dichter and Neira has revealed that the Panamanian people greatly mistrust the PTJ [National Technical Police] and the National Police. In addition, more than half of the people polled think that the policemen are Defense Forces members in civilian clothing.

While 72.3 percent of those polled answered that they do not trust the National Police, more than that, 75.8 percent, do not trust the PTJ.

The opinion poll, conducted among 902 people from 8 to 15 November, confirmed that the Panamanians want a demilitarized country. This is the opinion of 73.9 percent of the males and 77.6 percent of the females polled. Seventy-seven percent of the women polled greatly mistrust both the National Police and the PTJ. The males' opinion is somewhat different: 73 percent mistrust the PTJ and 67 percent mistrust the police.

In August, when Dichter and Neira conducted a similar poll, the degree of mistrust of both police institutions reached 75 percent. This indicates that these institutions still present a poor image and that their credibility has not improved, despite the fact that 142 Public Force [FP] members retired on 3 September, and Ebrahim Asvat became the first civilian in decades to assume the leadership of the police.

The 142 retired FP members include five lieutenant colonels, 30 majors, 13 captains, one lieutenant junior grade, 28 lieutenants, 59 sublieutenants, 14 sergeants, and two corporals. The advanced retirement of 40 officers and noncommissioned officers was also announced.

Poll results indicate that the people demand a greater "purge" in the ranks of the National Police. For example, 56.2 percent thought that the FP members are really FDP men disguised as policemen; only 30 percent believed otherwise.

This belief still prevails among the Panamanians, even though Ricardo Arias Calderon, minister of government and justice recently said that 36 percent of the members of the old FDP had either been removed or retired.

This means that a large percentage of the FDP officers are still in the National Police, which could explain the public's rejection of the institution.

To make sure that the majority of the Panamanian people would be properly represented, the Dichter and Neira poll of opinion included the country's nine largest population centers: Panama City, Colon, David, Las Tablas, Chitre, Santiago, Penonome, San Miguelito, and La Chorrera.

These figures were similar to those of the August poll. This indicates that, despite the changes, the FDP's shadow still looms large in the Panamanian people's minds.

This assertion seems to be confirmed by the opposing opinions on the military's control of the civilian power. According to the survey, 39.6 percent thought the civilians control the military, while 41.6 percent thought otherwise.

In addition, 58.8 percent did not view the National Police as a genuinely civilian institution. This percent is the same as in the previous opinion poll.

The high crime rate does not seem to help the National Police's image and its vigilance and citizen protection role either, because 58 percent of the 902 poll participants thought the institution is not performing these duties satisfactorily.

The majority of Panamanians (56 percent) believed that the Constitution should explicitly abolish the Army, while 27 percent thought otherwise.

In coming issues, LA PRENSA will present some other aspects of national life reflected by the poll having to do with Panamanian- U.S. relations, the country's economic situation, and the popularity of government officials. A supplement with an expanded report on the survey's results will appear in the newspaper's 8 November issue.

Endara on Image of Public Force, Government

PA0312164690 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] During a news conference at the Presidential Palace on 30 November, President Guillermo Endara was questioned by reporters regarding topics of national interest.

[Endara] "We must do whatever is possible—and I ask the media to help in this—so that, first of all, our Public Force becomes a good one, and second, so that the public recognizes it as a good entity that serves the people.

"With a bad image just because of the bad memories of the years of the dictatorship... [changes thought] An organization such as the police force needs esprit de corps. It needs to feel respected by the citizens.

"As long as the citizens do not respect and recognize the police force's work, they will not have esprit de corps and will not be able to carry out their lawful duties or the duties that all Panamanians want them to carry out."

On another topic, President Endara rejected any idea that his government's popularity has decreased.

[Endara] "During my visits to low-income sectors, many of which you have witnessed because you have been there, I have not received any signs of that decrease in popularity."

Regarding his government's objectives which were promised during the election campaign, the president said:

[Endara] "I have still not accomplished my campaign objectives, but I know that over the coming years and months I will begin to fulfill them. I have already begun to fulfill them. I feel that the real work is beginning now.

"Remember that I knew that these hard times were coming, which is why I went on a fast on 1 March of this year. I knew that we would go through this desert and these hard times.

"I believe that the hardest times are gone now. As I said at the Legislative Assembly, we are now beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Customs Focuses on Drug Traffic in Free Zone

PA0212155590 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 24 Nov 90 p 12

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena has reported that the Customs Service is investigating Colon Free Zone businesses from which international and local drug traffickers buy electrical household appliances to fill them with cocaine and then take them out of the country through Tocumen International Airport.

Arosemena said that the Panamanian Customs Service and the U.S. DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] have been conducting joint operations to repress contraband and drug trafficking and to carry out other tasks. He said that there have been several successful operations. For "security" reasons, however, he declined to give any details.

He said the companies are selling the electrical household units used by the drug traffickers who take them to the airport full of cocaine.

Arosemena said, "We are investigating which businesses are selling the units and through which routes they are sent, to find out where they are being filled with cocaine.

Arosemena said that recent confiscations at Tocumen Airport lead him to think that the drug traffickers have changed their "modus operandi" of using electrical household units to transport drugs.

He said, "That is the way they were doing it. We are not, however, catching them any more at Tocumen. That means they might have changed their 'modus operandi.' No drug trafficker with any common sense would run the risk of using a certain route if they knew we were waiting for them, so they are probably using alternate routes. We are working on that now."

Referring to how the cargo may pass through the Colon Free Zone, he said, "We do not yet know where the leak is." He said that transfers are made inside the Free Zone and that there are also companies engaged in repacking and crating. He added that the cargo comes from the Free Zone because that is what the cargo documents show.

Regarding joint operations with the DEA, Arosemena said, "We maintain close contact with the DEA through the U.S. Customs Service. We are in contact with them and conduct joint operations against drug traffickers in Panama."

Arosemena said that now it can clearly be seen that the Customs Service is playing an important role in the antidrug struggle, and that now there is more understanding between the Customs Service and the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police].

He added, however, "I am watching what they are doing, and I also expect them to be watching what I am doing, because any time they do something that I believe is wrong I am going to criticize them. I expect them to do the same with me."

Meanwhile, EL SIGLO has learned that some legislators will propose bills to regulate, supervise, and strictly conduct the destruction of drugs confiscated by either the PTJ or the Customs Service. These bills seek to regain the people's trust and credibility that the material burned is really cocaine.

Arosemena said that, in his opinion, the last time drugs were burned the procedure used did not comply with legal requirements. He said, "We were not invited to witness the burning of the drugs, but if we had been, we would have demanded to see the documents corresponding to the drug being burned. Each kilogram of cocaine seized is covered by a document. It is tested in the laboratory, and a notation is made of what drug is being burned. That is the procedure that should be followed, and not just burning a large heap."

Arosemena said that over the last 11 months 900 kg of cocaine worth $60 million have been seized at the Tocumen International Airport.

Poll Shows 80 Percent Favor Special Police

PA0412024490 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Dec 90 pp A-1, A-2

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] Twenty-five percent of the Panamanian people believe that Panama should have an army to protect the people, to defend the canal and the country's borders, and to counterattack foreign enemy forces. Eighty percent prefer the creation of a specialized police force, a poll prepared by the parliament has revealed.

The three-volume 300-page document was drafted by the ad hoc commission for consultation on the Public Force comprised of nine legislators and headed by Christian Democrat Camilo Brenes.

Eighty percent of the people polled by Information Systems Inc. on behalf of the ad hoc commission, said that the Public Force should dedicate itself to protecting citizens and their property, preventing crimes, arresting criminals, and safeguarding communities.

Also, they rejected the existence of the intelligence services and authoriztion on which the former all-powerful Panama Defense Forces (FDP) was based.

After the U.S. military intervention on 20 December 1989, the FDP was dismantled, 20 elite companies were dissolved, and hundreds of officers and troops, including those close to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, were discharged or retired.

The Public Force, however, has a known intelligence service, D-2, and the authorities have not publicly announced its objective, structure, operation, or composition.

Eighty percent also came out in favor of policemen having the right to vote, but to a similar extent they rejected their having privileges or being granted special retirement status.

About 60 organizations consulted by the ad hoc commission gave a black mark to the Public Force, claiming that the current institution is not different enough from Noriega's FDP, which is why it should be restructured.

Of the organizations polled, an unspecified majority demanded a new law for the Public Force, better although limited weapons, and the creation of an institution administered by a civilian body and with a new organizational name.

PRD Communique Advocates 'Immediate Renewal'

PA0312043290 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 27 Nov 90 p 22

[Text] Communique issued by the Torrijist Reactivation and Reaffirmation Movement of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD].

Communique No. 1

After a profound analysis of the political situation—as well as that of the party—the Torrijist Reactivation and Reaffirmation Movement, comprising different sectors within the party, has reached the conclusion that the current authorities of the National Executive Council have lost their rallying power throughout the country. Moreover, since 20 December 1989, they have been unable to properly orient the party's members with serious and responsible proposals that reflect the nationalist position contained in Torrijos' doctrine. For that reason, our movement deems it imperative to have an immediate renewal of all the PRD branches and organizations. The renewal must start with the provisional appointment of a new National Executive Council in the next meeting of the national directorate.

At the same time, we wish to inform the people of our unyielding position favoring the majority, which believes in Torrijism as a vital solution to their needs. We also want to give the people our assurances that we will do our best to contribute our nationalist, popular, and democratic beliefs so that the authentic ideals, principles, actions, and achievements that Omar Torrijos dreamed of become a reality in a free, sovereign, and independent Panama that has good international relations based on mutual respect with all the brother countries of our American continent.

Fellow party members, citizens,

The current situation and the events of 20 December impose on us the sacred duty and responsibility of taking up with courage the Torrijos doctrine, which is nationalist, undivided, popular, pluralist, changing, and, most of all, democratic.

Viva the people of Panama. Viva Omar Torrijos. Viva el PRD. Viva Panama. Viva Panama.

On behalf of the organizing committee: Fernando Blades, Elvia M. de Ortiz, Odilio Gonzalez, Carlos Ortis, Rafael Reyes, Eduardo Lopez Dorati, Bercelio Jurado, Francisco Herrera, Eugenio Newman, Francisco Sanchez, Agustin Luna, and Jose Pinzon.

Lopez Gevara Selected New Labor Party President

PA0212032690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Nov 90 p 2 A

[Report by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] Lawyer Carlos Lopez Guevara has received the support of 204 Labor Party (PALA) members out of the 300 PALA members who attended the party convention. He proclaimed himself the new president of the renovated political group, which is preparing for the 1994 elections.

Before a large group of followers, many of them close to the previous regime, the National Executive Committee (CEN) was announced. It includes the following people: Carlos Lopez Guevara, president; Nestor Tomas Guerra, first vice president; Cesar Martanz, second vice president; and Alberto Carrera, third vice president.

Arturo Diez was chosen secretary general; Alejandro Vernaza, first secretary general; Ruben Galvez, second secretary general; and Arsenio Ducreux, third secretary general. Franklin Raymores was appointed treasurer and he will be assisted by Nicolas Alvarado and Gustavo Quintero.

Even though Hernan Garcia, electoral director of the Electoral Tribunal, indicated that official figures are only handled by the organization and that he did not certify them, PALA spokesmen said the required quorum to declare the convention valid did exist.

The participants in the PALA convention announced the changes that were made in the internal regulations, which grant all members the right to vote in the decisions of the political organization. In addition, the number of national directorate members was increased by two.

During a speech at the end of the prolonged meeting, Lopez Guevara said the future of the party will soon be decided because it is not part of the government, "to which it has not been invited to join" and it does not participate in the ranks of the current opposition, but it maintains a critical position.

"If the parties that compose the government alliance are themselves constantly criticizing each other, the natural thing to expect from the PALA is that it will vehemently and straightforwardly point out the mistakes made by those who have the responsibility of governing," Lopez Guevara said.

He said the old problems, which resulted from the serious economic sanctions imposed by the United States on Panama and which contributed to the extensive property damage caused during the invasion, demand the organization of a government of a wide political base to accomplish the task of reconciliation so that "no one is excluded."

The lawyer said the PALA will fulfill its responsibility of guiding an opinion bloc, which has joined the organization and which "will always aspire to rule Panama on the basis of freedom with social justice."

Foreign Ministry Authorizes Tourist Cards

PA3011162390 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 27 Nov 90 p 18

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has sent a note to all its embassies and consulates advising them that the national government, through the Immigration Department of the Government and Justice Ministry, has approved that citizens from countries of the American Continent—with the exception of Cuba—who visit Panama as tourists can enter national territory with tourist cards. These cards can be obtained at travel agencies or airline companies.

Former Prosecutor Miranda Flees to Costa Rica

PA0112180690 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 0330 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Rodrigo Miranda Morales [former special prosecutor in the Hugo Spadafora murder case] has sought refuge in San Jose, Costa Rica after his home in David, Chiriqui Province was raided at approximately 1510 on 30 November by six members of the Public Force. Miranda, a lawyer, is under investigation for libel and slander, charges that were filed against him by Leslie Loaiza, chief of the Judicial Technical Police. Miranda charged Loaiza with involvement in the kidnapping and murder of the grandson of former Colonel Marcos Justines.

From San Jose, Costa Rica, Rodrigo Miranda has given the following exclusive statements to Radio KW Continente:

[Begin recording] [Miranda] The lesson we should all have learned is the lesson of Noriega and his cohorts who are in prison today. They used power to suppress the people and commit abuses such as those Attorney General Rogelio Cruz is now committing against me, my wife, and my home. Apparently, they have not learned their lesson.

The time will come when justice will prevail and they will have to pay for the crimes they have committed against mankind. Money laundering is a scourge that attacks the future of our youth and the wombs of mothers. It attacks the coming generations, our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. That crime cannot be pardoned. They will have to pay for the crime of using power to strengthen the monster of narcotics trafficking, in the same way Manuel Antonio Noriega is paying today.

I am afraid the United States will now follow the same policy it followed during Noriega's regime, sponsoring him because in return it obtained benefits in treaties, military bases, and international machinations. I believe the United States should have learned the bitter lesson that culminated with the 20 December invasion. This time they will not fall into the same trap. [sentence as heard]

This is my hope. If this is the price I have to pay today, far from my homeland persecuted and harassed, I feel it is well worth the price. I will continue paying this price, and I do not care how far my sacrifice will take me. If I have to pay with my life, I am ready to offer my life.

I swear to them—Guillermo Endara and Rogelio Cruz—that some day they will come face to face with me. They will see me as I apply justice to them, the same justice they are denying me today.

[Station news director Homero Londono] Mr. Miranda, if it is not an indiscretion, could we know where you are right now? Have you asked for political asylum in any country?

[Miranda] I am in Costa Rica, but I have not legalized my status. Within the next few days, however, I will legalize my status and travel to another country. [end recording]

Listeners of Radio KW Continente, you have just heard the statements from San Jose, Costa Rica by Rodrigo Miranda Morales, whose home in David, Chiriqui Province was raided at 1510 on 30 November. He had to flee Panama and request political asylum in Costa Rica, but it has not yet been granted.

7,000 Police To Be Deployed for Holiday Season

PA3011164090 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1234 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] National Police authorities have reported in a news conference chaired by National Police Director Ebrahim Asvat that over 7,000 Police Force members from several departments will be deployed in the capital as well as the main cities and national highways beginning tomorrow. This measure to bolster patrolling is being taken in light of the increase in banking and business activity in December.

Argentina

More on Shooting at Vice President's Helicopter

PY0312153090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1430 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Vice President Eduardo Duhalde was forced to get out of his helicopter and "quickly into the street" when, a few meters from Government House, his helicopter was hit in the fuselage by two gunshots fired from the Libertador Building.

According to reports from people close to Duhalde, the Senate [word indistinct] "nearly had to jump" from the helicopter after the small aircraft "was hit in the fuselage by two bullets" when it was about 40 meters in the air. The helicopter was carrying Duhalde from his house in Loma de Zamora District.

Duhalde was traveling with the helicopter pilot and Deputy Police Inspector Roberto Giacomino, chief of his personal guard, when he got "a big fright" which made him nearly "jump" from the helicopter shortly after landing on the Government House esplanade. He quickly entered Government House.

Sources close to the vice president reported that the helicopter was supposed to land at the "Madero Heliport," but, when it was about to do so, the pilot was told that he could not land in his normal place.

The vice president then decided to land in the heliport of the "Churruca" Police Hospital in Parque Patricios District, but when "a burst from a FAL rifle was heard" coming from the Army headquarters and they saw that the fuselage had been hit twice, they decided to land a few meters from Government House.

The first person to confirm the incident, which took place at 1015 today, was Justicialist Party (PJ) Deputy Lorenzo Pepe. Pepe was at Government House as Deputies Cesar Jaroslavasky (UCR) [Radical Civic Union] and Liliana Gurdulich (PJ) arrived just as Duhalde did.

Organization Protesting Bush Visit Supports Menem

PY0312152990 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1232 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—The lawmakers and representatives of human rights organizations who were scheduled to stage a march to repudiate President George Bush's visit on 5 December have decided to go to Government House today at 1100 to voice their support for President Carlos Menem.

This report was released by Jacinto Gaibur, one of the leaders who organized the march. He said that they had previously arranged an audience with Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa to analyze the details of the march. Gaibur, a former Justicialist Party spokesman, added: "We will now try to meet President Menem to give him our solidarity" in the face of the incidents within the Army.

Rebels Attack Grenadiers; Army Issues Communique

PY0312154990 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1510 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The Army General Staff today issued a communique in which it reports that the "Painted Faces" have attacked the ceremonial escort detail [la fanfarria y la escolta] of the Grenadiers Regiment which was getting ready to take part in an official ceremony at Government House.

Communique Number 6 reads as follows:

"The people are informed that at about 1300 GMT, when the General San Martin Grenadiers Regiment standard bearers, escorts, and musicians were getting out of the vehicles that had taken them to Government House where they were to have escorted the Bulgarian ambassador, rebellious troops that occupied the Army General Staff building opened fire on the Grenadiers. Thus they showed how irrational they are. No casualties have been reported."

40 Rebel Vehicles Approaching Buenos Aires

PY0312164290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1548 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Members of the Entre Rios Army unit and provincial police are preparing a strong operation on the outskirts of this city to confront rebel military officers who are heading toward Buenos Aires in more than 40 vehicles to join the rebel troops.

This was confirmed to NA by Entre Rios Governor Eduardo Busti, who said that the rebel officers are from the military units of Concordia and Villaguay in Entre Rios Province.

Group Steals Guns From Military Industries

PY0312165790 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spnish 1550 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—A group of seven people wearing civilian clothes, headed by a retired corporal whose last name is Quiroga, early today attacked the Military Industries installations in the General San Martin District of Buenos Aires Province. The group stole "an important number of guns."

This was confirmed today by the Military Industries spokesman who said that 53-year-old Quiroga was previously assigned to the Military Industries arsenal.

He added that after overpowering the guard, the group stole one mortar, 15 machine guns, seven FAL rifles, one FAP [expansion unknown], two MAG, one carbine, one rifle, and several rounds of ammunition.

Rico Says He 'Understands' Military Uprising

PY0312171790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1227 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (EFE)—Former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, leader of the military uprisings against Raul Alfonsin's administration, has confirmed that he "understands" the reasons for the new uprising with which he feels "emotionally involved."

Aldo Rico was discharged from the Army in November 1989 and has launched himself into politics through a party he founded called the Movement for Dignity and Independence, through which he hopes to become elected as governor of Buenos Aires Province.

In an interview with Radio Continental of Buenos Aires, Aldo Rico said that while the uprising is not justified, he understands it.

Rico said: "The problem with the Armed Forces is that they cannot find their place in society," adding that this is responsibility of the politicians.

Rico said: "The Army demands dignity for its members. It does not feel that it is being well run by people who do not care 'in the least' what happens to their subordinates."

Asked if an uprising is a legitimate way to express the demands of a certain sector of society, Rico said: "When conflicts are not solved, a crisis explodes."

In another part of the interview, Rico was told that three people have already died during the clashes in the military units occupied by the rebel officers, to which he replied: "There will be many more deaths if this situation continues."

Army's Communique on Rebels' 'Incoherence'

PY0312173390 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1623 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—At 1340 [1540] the Army General Staff issued Communique No. 7 in which it informs the citizens about "the great incoherence" in the statement issued by the rebels, who are occupying some Army premises, when they say that "they do not recognize the authority of the highest leaders of the institution, yet they are not seeking to harm the stability of the constitutional power."

The communique adds that the attitude of the rebels seeks to "ignore the fact that the president of the nation, who has invested the respective Argentine Army commanders with legal powers, is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces."

The communique ends by stating: "The actions of these men have resulted in the deaths of three outstanding members of the Army and have placed our constitutional order at stake."

Defense Ministry Communique on Military Actions

PY0312174290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Defense Minister [passage indistinct] loyal troops seized the El Palomar 601st Battalion headquarters "through the use of force".

Defense Ministry Communique No. 2, which was released today, states that "the centers where the seditious actions began are being surrounded by loyal troops, and the El Palomar 601st Quartermaster Battalion headquarters has been recovered through the use of force. The situations at the Patricios Regiment, Army headquarters, and the TAMSE [Medium Argentine Tank Factory, State enterprise] are unchanged."

"The seditious groups that seized buildings in the port of Buenos Aires and the River Plate prefecture are being suppressed by Naval Prefecture troops," the communique adds.

The communique states that "a column of tanks under the control of seditious personnel from Entre Rios is being intercepted in the territory of that province."

The document adds that "there is no news from the command headquarters of the 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th Army Corps, except for the disappearance of some armored vehicles from their bases in Villaguay and Concordia."

The Defense Ministry reports that it "is continuing to coordinate the actions of the Armed Forces and security forces so that the seditious group, which is made up of retired officers and NCO's, is not able to go ahead with this adventure against the Argentine people and their constitutional authorities."

Duhalde Says Government 'Not Willing To Talk'

PY0312180290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1725 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—Vice President Eduardo Duhalde said this afternoon that "the government is not willing to talk with the rebels" and that "chief of state Carlos Menem has ordered that the units they have occupied be recovered."

In statements made at Government House, Duhalde said he is convinced that "everything will finish quickly and definitively" and that "the full weight of the law will fall on the criminals."

The vice president, who met with President Menem in Government House, reported that he had visited the Cenoral and Argerich military hospitals, where some wounded civilians and journalists have been hospitalized. He noted that "the conditions of some of the injured are worrisome."

Air Force Ordered To Prepare To Repress Rebels

PY0312174590 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1725 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec [NA]— The Defense Ministry has ordered the Air Force and Navy to prepare Air and Navy infantry troops to act against the rebels in various parts of the port, the TAMSE [Medium Argentine Tank Factory, State Enterprise], and to form an armored column which was stopped in Entre Rios when a bridge was blown up.

A communique issued shortly after 1515 [1715 GMT] by the Defense Ministry also disclosed that an attack on the rebels inside the 1st Patricios Regiment has also been ordered.

Commander Gives Rebels 'Ultimatum'

PY0312181190 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1742 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Reliable military sources have said that Lieutenant General Martin Bonnet, chief of the Argentine Army, has allegedly given an ultimatum to the rebels who began a bloody rebellion demanding that they surrender before 1600 [1800 GMT].

The high military commander, through a radio and television network today at noon ordered the rebels to give themselves up. He allegedly told them that their surrender must be "unconditional," without any negotiation, and that they must turn themselves in with their hands above their heads.

Plans To Retake Army Headquarters Announced

PY0312185090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1759 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—A high-ranking government source has said that the Libertador Building will be recovered by loyal forces "before 1700" [1900 GMT].

The source said there are a large number of seditious troops at the building, but they will be evicted when military forces loyal to the government go into action.

The source added that the situation at the Coast Guard building is now "normal."

15 Painted Faces Tanks Head for Buenos Aires

PY0312181990 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1740 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Zarate, Buenos Aires Province, 3 Dec (NA)— "Loyal" Army members are posted on the Zarate-Brazo Largo bridge ready to confront the Painted Faces who are heading toward Buenos Aires in about 15 tanks.

The number of rebels, who belong to the Chajari and Gualeguay Regiments and who this morning rebelled from their natural commands, is still undetermined. To this number must be added those people who stole several vehicles from the provincial highways administration.

The access from Entre Rios Province to Buenos Aires has been virtually cut since Highways 12 and 14, the Zarate Brazo Largo Bridge, and the Hernandarias tunnel are under the control of the Army and the Gendarmerie.

Army Chief Reportedly Transfers Command Post

PY0312191290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1844 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Lieutenent General Martin Bonnet, Argentine Army chief of staff, may have transfered his command post, escorted by a long column of vehicles, to an unidentified site, military sources have reported.

Bonnet may have abandoned the horse-mounted Grenadiers Regiment where he was commanding operations to repress the bloody rebel movement because rebel officers captured the Libertador building, which is the Army Staff headquarters.

Rebel Forces at Metropolitan Port Surrender

PY0312191190 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1834 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—Rebel forces occupying the metropolitan port have surrendered to loyal forces from the prefecture, the Defense Ministry reported at 1545 [1745 GMT].

Spokesmen for the Defense Ministry revealed that Defense Minister Humberto Romero has already briefed President Carlos Memem on this development.

Menem Commits Navy, Air Force To Fight

PY0312192990 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1904 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Mar del Plata, 3 Dec (NA) — A high-ranking Air Force source of this city has confirmed for NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that the government has decided, as of 1700 [1900 GMT], to bomb Libertador Building.

The source said that since President Carlos Menem decided to commit the Navy and the Air Force, both institutions are ready "to intervene."

Army Communique Updates Military Situation

PY0312193790 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1853 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—The Army Joint Staff issued its communique No. 13 at 1530 [1730 GMT]. The communique reads as follows:

"The Argentine Army informs the public that since the military operations got under way at the 1st Patricios

Infantry Regiment, approximately 30 rebels have surrendered, and they were transferred to the area where detainees are being held. The operations continue as planned. [no closing quote as received]

The text of this communique was read over the phone by Major Merlo. [not further identified]

Rebel Surrender Reported at Coast Guard Building

PY0312200290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1944 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—Shortly after 1915 GMT, the Defense Ministry released a new communique stating the following:

"The Defense Ministry reports the surrender of mutinous forces that were fighting in the port area, near the Coast Guard Building. The mutinous forces surrendered to officers of the Army, Gendarmerie, and the Naval Prefecture.

"At this moment, members of the mutinous forces are being arrested and identified. Members of the 1st Patricios Infantry Regiment, who acted against the rules of democratic coexistence, are also surrendering.

"The Defense Ministry reports that the operations will continue until the last rebel surrenders."

Patricios Forces Surrender 'Unconditionally'

PY0312200690 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1952 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—The office of the Army Chief of Staff has reported that the rebel forces that seized installations of the 1st Patricios Infantry Regiment surrendered unconditionally to loyal forces.

Names of Captured Rebels Released

PY0312211090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2051 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—The office of the Army chief of staff has reported on the military situation in communique No. 15, released at 1830 [2030 GMT].

The text of the communique follows:

"Continuing with the information supplied to the public in communique No. 14, in which the unconditional surrender of those occupying the Palermo garrisons were reported, the Army chief of staff makes known that the following rebel leaders have been captured: Lieutenant Colonel Osvaldo Tevere, Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Perez Cometto, Major Hugo Reinaldo Abete, Major Jorge Pedro Mones Ruiz, First Sergeant Dionisio Alberto Figueroa, First Sergeant Armenio Millanahuel, and Colonel Enrique Baraldini."

Rebels Said To Seek Publicity During Bush Visit

PY0312195390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1814 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Brussels, 3 Dec (EFE)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, who returns today to Buenos Aires after his visit to Brussels, has said that the military rebellion in Argentina seeks to attract the attention of the international press that is preparing to cover U.S. President George Bush's upcoming visit to Argentina.

The foreign minister asserted that the rebels "are using President Bush's visit (Bush is scheduled to arrive in Buenos Aires on 5 December) to conduct irrational activities aimed at disturbing democracy and the process of domestic reform."

Cavallo will return to Buenos Aires today, after having attended the opening of the final negotiations of the Uruguay Round of the GATT, which were held in Brussels.

Commenting on the serious situation being experienced in Argentina, Cavallo told EFE: "The Armed Forces will defeat the rebels."

He had planned to return to Argentina to attend the reception honoring U.S. President George Bush and his entourage, who will arrive in Argentina on 5 December.

Cavallo said: "We have worked normally here, and the Argentine delegation will continue to do so." He added that he will return to Brussels on 6 December to resume his activities at the final meeting of the Uruguay Round.

He said that all the Argentine political parties, the social forces, and the public opinion "reject the attitude of the rebels," who, he said, want to live in the past.

Cavallo today delivered a speech at the GATT meeting plenum. In his speech, he defended Argentine trade interests and affirmed his country's intention to take part in the open market proposed during the Uruguay Round negotiations.

According to a source of the Argentine Embassy in Brussels, Cavallo was briefed on the situation in Argentina by his advisers.

Military Operations Observed at Army Headquarters

PY0312202490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2000 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA) Military movements are being observed in the neighborhood of the Libertador Building, which remains in the hands of rebel groups.

At approximately 1730 [1930 GMT] planes overflew the building, which is the headquarters of the Army chief of staff.

There is a machine gun mounted at the foot of one of the columns at the entrance to the Libertador Building; it is manned by a rebel. This is the only visible sign of defense.

Rebels Surrender, Give Up Boulogne Tank Factory

PY0312204490 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2014 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—According to police and press reports, 22 rebels who had seized the Medium Argentine Tanks Factory in Boulogne surrendered at 1800 [2000 GMT] today.

The rebels, dressed in civilian clothes, walked out of the factory and are now lying in the street at the intersection of Salguero and Yerbal Streets under the surveillance of loyal troops.

Seineldin Reportedly 'Surprised' by Uprising

PY0312213690 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2040 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] San Martin de los Andes, 3 Dec (NA)—Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin looked "surprised" when he heard about the military uprising that took place this morning in Buenos Aires, according to Major Mauricio Fernandez Funes, who is in charge of the regiment where the "Painted Faces" leader has been serving the arrest sentence imposed on him by the Army chief of staff.

Fernandez said he informed Seineldin of the uprising at approximately 0515. Fernandez noted: "No changes have thus far been ordered in lodging arrangements" for the 'Painted Faces' leader."

Presidential Spokesman Interviewed on Situation

PY0312221690 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2023 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Interview with presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo by reporter Antonio Julian at Government House and by announcer Raul Barcelo from the television studio—live]

[Text] [Julian] Good afternoon, Humberto. What is the current situation in the different sectors where conflicts have taken place?

[Toledo] Well, the situation in the two [as heard] sectors closest to Government House, the Prefecture Building on Cangallo Street and Leng Avenue, is under control. Prefecture officials are there, and they are resuming their command activities. Judge (Pons) has already taken action there. (Pons) arrived at Government House to request equipment; he wanted a truck to carry the rebels' weapons. Some Army helicopters are carrying about 40 or 45 men who had seized the Prefecture Building. This episode has ended, thank God.

There is another episode still going on involving six or eight tanks moving along Americana Avenue. Of course the president has given precise and resolute orders to end this problem as soon as possible. I understand that some Air Force aircraft and helicopters could engage these tanks, so people are urged to stay away from that area. It is possible that this confrontation will be over with quickly. The order is final: Stop the tanks and detain the people commanding them immediately.

[Julian] To explain further, are these the same units that have been moving from Entre Rios Province since early this morning?

[Toledo] No. This is a column from Boulogne, from the Medium Argentine Tank Factory, State Enterprise, TAMSE.

[Julian] What is the current situation at the Patricios Regiment?

[Toledo] The situation at Patricios is absolutely under control. Colonel De la Cruz, commander of the regiment, is again in charge there. There are some military officers under arrest. They are the ones who seized the regiment, violated the law, and caused the death of two officers and a noncommissioned officer. The national government, through the president, has regretted this fact. President Menem has expressed his full recognition and gratitude to all members of the Armed Forces and security forces who reacted immediately to control these incidents.

Those under arrest are: Major Hugo Reinaldo Abete, Lieutenant Colonel Osvaldo Tevere, Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Perez Cometto, Major Jorge Pedro Mones Ruiz, and Colonel Enrique Baraldini.

[Julian] Where are they being held?

[Toledo] They are being held at the Patricios Regiment, but they will probably be transferred to another military unit.

[Julian] Well, let us now address what is happening near Government House at the Libertador Building. By the shots we can hear, the action has begun.

[Toledo] There are also orders to recover the Libertador Building as soon as possible. Action is currently taking place there, and we understand this will end very soon.

[Julian] Mr. Toledo, how is the president? This is very important.

[Toledo] The president has just received a call from Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, who encouraged him. Before that, he received calls from Brazilian President Collor de Mello, Uruguayan President Lacalle, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, and many political leaders, businessmen, industrialists, congressmen, opposition leaders, etc. I remember that among the first to call early this morning were former President Raul Alfonsin and Radical Civic Union bloc leader Cesar Jaroslavsky, whom the president invited, together with Deputy Ulloa [not further identified], to breakfast here at Government

House. We continuously feel the presence of the people, of all society, through this group of leaders.

[Julian] I do not know whether there is anything to add, but I believe everything will be under control soon. Is that true?

[Toledo] Yes, it is. I would say that the last conflict will end soon. It is also important for the people to know that the president recognizes the loyalty of the Armed Forces and security forces, and their own generosity in offering their own lives to prevent legal constitutional order from being disrupted.

[Barcelo] What information do you have, Mr. Toledo, about the troops that were coming from Entre Rios? What do you know about Seineldin, who reportedly remains in the south? Do you know anything about him, and whether the Supreme Court members are meeting with President Menem at this moment?

[Toledo] Well, the troops have been detained. They are not moving any further. The information we have now is that the situation regarding the detention of those troops is the same.

As for Seineldin, he is still being held at San Martin de los Andes. There is no information to the contrary.

Regarding the Supreme Court, most of its members have come to Government House to greet the president of the nation. They are here now with the president.

[Julian] Thank you very much, Mr. Toledo.

Defense Ministry Issues Communique on Operations

PY0312222090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2144 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—At 1926 [2126 GMT] the Defense Ministry issued a communique. Here is the text of the communique:

"After forcing the surrender of the individuals operating in the Buenos Aires port area and after retaking the 1st Patricios Regiment, the defense minister ordered that the personnel who participated in those operations move on to the Libertador Building to surround the Army General Staff headquarters.

"It is hereby also reported that the tanks taken by the rebels from the Medium Argentine Tank Factory, State Enterprise in Boulogne are retreating to the outskirts of the federal capital. It has been decided to order squadrons from the Air Force and the Punta Indio Naval Air Base to attack those tanks in compliance with an order from the president of the nation.

"It has finally been ordered that General Sztyrle, 1st Armored Brigade commander, move all of his armored units toward Canuelas."

Forces Ordered To Surround Libertador Building

PY0312225490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2230 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Here is the text of the latest communique issued by the Defense Ministry:

Defense Minister Humberto Romero, who is coordinating the actions to repress the rebels, has given the appropriate orders to have Libertador Building surrounded by Army personnel and Marines to eliminate the last rebel stronghold.

Rebels at Building Surrender

PY0312232290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2306 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—The rebels that were occupying Libertador Building have surrendered to loyal forces. The rebels handed over control of the Army staff headquarters, which they illegally occupied early this morning.

The rebels, who began a bloody uprising, turned over their arms to forces loyal to Lieutenant General Martin Bonnet, Army commander.

Menem Says Uprising To End in 'One Hour'

PY0312232190 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Today President Carlos Menem described the military uprising as "a coup and it will be treated accordingly."

Menem said he believes that the last rebel stronghold will fall "within one hour"; that is, 2200 Argentine Eastern Time [0000 GMT 4 December].

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Attempted Coup

LD0312232390 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Excerpt] We are receiving an item of news from Madrid's Barajas Airport where a member of the Argentine Government, the foreign minister, has just arrived. Hector Arenas is on the line:

[Arenas] Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo made a one-hour technical stopover at Madrid's Barajas Airport a few minutes ago so that he could speak over the telephone with the Government House in Buenos Aires. During the call he was informed that the coup attempt was, according to the minister's statements, being put down by forces loyal to the Menem government. He said that nearly all of the rebelling soldiers had surrendered, and a group of civilians had been arrested. He called them all an irrational group, without political support from the civil population. These are some of the statements made by the Argentine foreign minister in Madrid:

[Begin Cavallo recording] I have just spoken with Buenos Aires, and they informed me that the mutineers at the Patricios barracks have surrendered. A group of former members of the Argentine Naval Prefecture, the (Albatros), has been arrested. They had [word indistinct] in a building of the Naval Prefecture of the port of Buenos Aires, and the occupiers of a tank factory in Boulogne, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, have also surrendered. The mutineers continue to occupy the Libertador Building, which is the headquarters of the Army High Command. But President Menem has given very precise orders to remove them using all the necessary means, orders which are being carried out. I want to tell you that this is a group of retired military officers, and some have even lost their position as members of the military, and a small group of civilians who are acting irrationally and have no support from any Argentine political sector, much less from the people and public opinion. [end recording]

[Arenas] The Argentine foreign minister also said in Madrid a few minutes ago: We are convinced that the rebellion will be put down in a few hours and that it does not endanger democracy in Argentina. Cavallo said he did not know whether President Menem will pardon military and guerrilla leaders who took part in the 1976 repression, some of whom are now leaders of the coup attempt. [passage omitted]

Rebels Still Resisting, Clashes Resume

PY0412003690 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2344 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Gualeguaychu, Entre Rios, 3 Dec (NA)—Clashes between Army "loyal" and rebel forces resumed tonight near this city on the bridge over Gualeyun Creek. According to high sources from the 2d Corps, which is stationed in Rosario, many people have been wounded in these clashes.

Canberra planes again bombed rebel positions in the area to force the rebels—who continue to resist—to surrender.

Some of the rebel officers have already surrendered and turned themselves in to loyal troops. Many of the rebels who took tanks from the Villaguay and Concordia regiments this morning are, however, still resisting.

Senate Approves Bill Establishing State of Siege

PY0412010290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0017 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—At 2205 the Senate approved a draft law confirming this morning's executive branch decree establishing a state of siege in the country because of the military situation.

The draft law approved by the Senate, which has now been turned over to the Chamber of Deputies for discussion, provides that the state of siege will not last for more than 60 days and empowers the executive branch to lift it as soon as the causes that prompted it have disappeared.

Chamber of Deputies Approves Bill

PY0412032690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0207 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (TELAM)—At 2345 [0145 GMT on 4 December] tonight the Chamber of Deputies confirmed the state of siege decreed today by the executive branch. The decree had been approved earlier by the Senate.

In a brief session, the Chamber of Deputies approved the law establishing the state of siege by a 164-5 vote.

Romero Claims Rebel Pockets 'Deactivated'

PY0412023090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0121 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Defense Minister Humberto Romero stated tonight that all rebel pockets were "deactivated," including the one in southern Entre Rios Province.

Romero said the bloody events "ended promptly" in compliance with instructions from President Carlos Menem. He said: We "must now evaluate" the number of rebels involved in the uprising as well as the number of detainees.

Romero met with reporters, whom he praised for "the great job" they performed today. In this regard, Romero said the official communiques were "faithfully" disseminated by the media.

President Menem Answers Questions on Rebellion

PY0412021690 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2321 GMT 3 Dec 90

[News conference by President Carlos Menem at Government House with local and foreign reporters—live]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Can you definitely say that today's uprising....[correspondent changes thought] Could you term it an attempted coup d'etat?

[Menem] Yes. It is now over. The attempt has been suffocated. There were some tanks circulating in some parts of Buenos Aires Province; they were abandoned in a locality, which, I believe, is somewhere near Franklin, and the men who were driving them have disappeared—they withdrew over the fields. The victory of the loyal forces has been categorical and absolute. The surrender has been unconditional, and the war courts are now in action.

[Radio Mitre] Mr. President, of course the community as a whole has repudiated this lamentable incident of the military men's uprising, but there is still a certain something floating around the community. It is the fact that the leaders of this uprising are the military men you pardoned not so very long ago. What is your opinion?

[Menem] Not all of them. Some of them were pardoned opportunely, others were not. I believe that at this time, the basic thing to do is to act with all the rigor of the law, and this is what we are going to do without any consideration or contemplation. This incident is quite different from times gone by.

We must not forget that there was a law of expiration, of due obedience. A series of confusing situations were created that we whitewashed, to put it one way, with the pardons. They were a type of clandestine [encubierto] pardons. Therefore, this is an entirely different situation.

[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS] Mr. President, will you ask for the death sentence for the rebels?

[Menem] Well, the Military Justice Code provides for that possibility in accordance with the nature of the incident, as is public knowledge. For us, the crime of rebellion, for the crime of rebellion the death sentence, among others, can be handed down.

[Argentina Televisora Color] Mr. President, as for today's situation, how is this type of thing undone?

[Menem] What do you mean undone? Where are you, who is speaking?

[Argentina Televisora Color] Here sir, here sir. How is this type of thing undone....

[Menem, interrupting] We do not have to undo anything; we must advance, we do not have to undo. As of now, a black chapter in Argentine history is closed. Another era is beginning, and it is demonstrating this government's strength, which will be inflexible with all the measures that have been adopted as of this moment.

[Channel 11] Mr. President, despite the fact that Colonel Seineldin is under arrest, do you believe he is the leader of this rebellion?

[Menem] I do not know. Until the case is investigated I cannot give my opinion on that matter.

[Radio Belgrano] Mr. President, with more detailed information—which we believe the government should now have in its hands—what ideology, political position, can be attributed to this attempted coup?

[Menem] This is total alienation. It does not have, I would say, either political banners or ideological banners. It is the madness of a group of individuals who considers itself somewhat messianic, and they have adopted an attitude that is going to cost them very dearly. The blood of three Armed Forces men—a lieutenant colonel, a major, and a corporal who were murdered in cold blood—that has been shed will have its answer based on legislation.

[Radio Ciudad de Buenos Aires] Mr.....

[Menem, interrupting] Of course, based on current legislation. The measures that will be adopted and that are going to be—and I repeat—will be energetic, the most energetic possible.

[Radio Ciudad de Buenos Aires] Mr. President....

[Menem, interrupting] I have not yet finished. If this comes under the crime of rebellion, it will be the military judges who establish the sentences. The president's hand will not tremble, no matter what the sentences.

[Radio Ciudad de Buenos Aires] Mr. President, given the reiteration of these rebellious incidents during the past few years, common sense dictates that this type of individual must be definitively eradicated from the Army. What does the government plan to do....

[Menem, interrupting] Definitively eradicate them.

[Radio Provincia] Mr. President, I would like to ask you if the government had intelligence about these events. My second question is: Will there be or will you ask for resignations in the national Cabinet?

[Menem] I do not see why one should ask for the resignations of certain persons; particularly, insofar as this attempt or act of rebellion was totally quelled and the forces acted in keeping with instructions, with the directives issued by the president of the nation in his capacity as Armed Forces commander in chief.

The president of the nation does not intend to ask for, and there is no possibility of asking for, the resignations of any of his Cabinet members, nor to relieve any of the commanders who acted quickly and effectively.

[Channel 13] Mr. President, about two months ago, when you were abroad, the 2d Army Corps commander warned about the possibility that groups of Painted Faces could engage in actions such as the ones carried out today. Could the government have prevented these actions beforehand by heeding that warning? My second question, sir, is whether the government will review the pardons that it was scheduled to grant before the end of this year?

[Menem] The first question is very difficult to answer based on assumptions. I can only tell you that actions were taken quickly and effectively. This clearly demonstrates that the security forces and the appropriate Armed Forces organizations act effectively when they are required to comply with their specific, appropriate duties.

Concerning the second question, with all certainty, security, and reflection, I can say: Yes, there will be pardons before the end of the year.

[CLARIN] Mr. President, can you confirm whether President Bush's presence in Argentina the day after tomorrow has been confirmed?

[Menem] Totally confirmed.

[Radio del Plata] Mr. President, this morning you talked to former President Alfonsin. I want to ask you if, at any moment, you took into account the former president's experience in similar situations....

[Menem, interrupting] Look here, if you....[Menem changes thought] Yes, yes, I already know where your question is leading to....

[Radio del Plata, interrupting] If you will take it into account in the future.

[Menem] Listen, if you read anywhere, or if you want to get bored reading one of my interviews, in one of those interviews—I do not remember which, but it was an important medium—talking about this topic, I warned these villains, these criminals, that I was at the head of the national government; not Dr. Alfonsin, but Carlos Menem. This was something completely different regarding the strength and assurance of the measures that I was going to take. In other words, I was warning them that any type of movement such as the one that occurred over the Easter weekend would be severely punished without any possibility of dialogue or talks. This is what we did this morning. The directive I gave the commanders was to demolish the rebels, these criminals who have already done enough harm to the country—not only at the internal level, but also at the international level. The commanders, together with the defense minister, rigorously carried out the directives I personally gave them.

[PAGINA DOCE] Mr. President, I would like to know whether you had prior intelligence reports that indicated the possibility of this type of event, and in that case....

[Menem, interrupting] State secret.

[DYN] Mr. President, you branded today's events as a coup. Can you explain why?

[Menem] When military units are seized, army colleagues treacherously attacked, and sectors of the community incited, I can only characterize such actions as an attempt to overthrow the government. This is very easy to understand, and there is no need to elaborate on it. For the nation's president, it was an attempted coup.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you believe that the rebel leadership has been definitively smashed this time?

[Menem] It has been totally smashed, dismantled; their graffiti around the country has ended.

[NOTICIAS] Mr. President, have the groups that participated in this morning's actions been identified? It was said that there was some inside help in the takeover of the Libertadores Building.

[Menem] Well, investigations are under way. At this time, more than 50 people have been arrested; many of them are senior officers—lieutenant colonels, colonels—who are in custody in the Horse- Mounted Grenadiers Regiment. Many civilians were also arrested.

[Carlos Montero from CX Radio Capital of Montevideo, Uruguay] Mr. President, a meeting to discuss the restructuring of Army units and the budget situation was scheduled for today at 1130. After today's events, will restructuring be considered? Second, what....

[Menem, interrupting] Our task has been made easier. Tomorrow I will talk. As soon as this press conference ends, the Army commanders will be here to greet the nation's president, and we will set a new date, possibly this week, to announce the restructuring of the Armed Forces.

[Unidentified reporter] Which Latin American presidents called you today to convey their solidarity?

[Menem] Well, several have; I do not want to leave any out. Let me just say that the presidents of Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador, Venezuela, and others who I cannot remember have done so. Practically all the Latin American presidents have expressed their solidarity.

[Radio Excelsion] Mr. President, is it just coincidence that this happened only 48 hours before President George Bush is to visit?

[Menem] Well, this question is rather difficult to answer. It is just the way these irresponsible people act. Do you remember the letter they addressed to the nation's president knowing that he was not here, but in Japan? This is just their style, resulting from the alienation these outlaws suffer.

[Radio Continental] Mr. President, you just mentioned that this has been a coup d'etat. However....

[Menem, interrupting] An attempted coup d'etat.

[Radio Continental] Correct, an attempted coup d'etat. The rebels said, however, that it was not; it is clear....

[Menem, interrupting] Well, this....

[Radio Continental, interrupting] Pardon, it is not clear to the public what the rebels objective was.

[Menem] If I tell you it was an attempted coup d'etat, this means their objective was to end the constitutional regime and return to the old adventures that have done so much harm to the country.

[CRONISTA COMERCIAL] Mr. President, this is the fourth military uprising since 1983. In the first three there was no firepower to repress, and they all ended in negotiations. This time there was firepower. What is the difference between this situation and the previous situations, other than the obvious change in management of the state?

[Menem] With due respect for the previous constitutional authorities, the situations at that time were not confronted with the necessary severity. Negotiations were held with people with whom there can be no negotiations; one must not negotiate with outlaws. On this occasion, the directive of the nation's president was definite. In several instances, the rebels probed for the possibility of negotiations, but the answer was a flat no. The demand was for unconditional surrender or attacks on and destruction of the subversive strongholds, whatever the consequences.

[CRONISTA COMERCIAL] Another question, Mr. President, when Dr. Alfonsin spoke with you over the telephone, what did he say to you?

[Menem] He spoke with my brother. At that moment I was in another meeting so he spoke with my brother, and Alfonsin expressed his total and absolute solidarity at this time with the legitimately elected authorities. And for this, of course, I thank Dr. Alfonsin and all those who cooperate with him.

[Daniel Alvarenga of the "Protagonista" program of Radio Splendid] An explanation, please. On one hand, those who today attempted a coup, murdering three persons, deserve the full weight of the law....

[Menem, interrupting] And several wounded.

[Alvarenga, continuing] On the other hand, you confirm that those who carried out a coup d'etat and murdered thousands of persons, who are responsible for the murder of thousands of persons, will be pardoned. How do you explain these two ideas?

[Menem] They are two totally different situations. Let us look toward the future starting from today. Do not give me any comparisons of situations that are totally different, incidents that occurred 14 years ago with recent incidents. I was a victim 14 years ago, and the greatness of men happens to depend on a man's attitude when you enter the field of pardons to heal wounds that run very deep in the body of the Republic. Now, things are quite different. I am president of the nation; I am exercising power in a manner absolutely within the law and the Constitution, and I will remain within those parameters.

[OSOURO] A bank holiday was decreed today; it would be interesting to know whether this measure will continue, and how do you expect the markets to react?

[Menem] No, the measure will not remain in force. The markets reacted normally. The dollar remained within the values we have had over the past four or five months. Therefore, tomorrow operations will be normal in the financial and economic areas without any type of restrictions.

[PAGINA DOCE] You had the possibility of using a large amount of firepower to repress the rebellious military men, precisely....

[Menem, interrupting] What?

[PAGINA DOCE, continuing] Do you believe you used a large amount of firepower to repress the rebellious military men because you have already completed the first stage of pardons and have promised the second stage, or was it because of some other special issue?

[Menem] No, I do not understand your question. What are you....

[PAGINA DOCE, interrupting] This is the question. Do you believe you had firepower from the three forces repress the rebellious military men because you have implemented the first stage of pardons and have promised a second stage?

[Menem] What has one thing to do with the other? The capability of firepower is very clear. We used it fully, and the subversive attempt was suffocated. This has nothing to do with the pardons.

[Channel 13] Mr. President—I am here, Mr. President—are you going to ask for Colonel Seineldin's discharge from the Army after these lamentable incidents because those who rebelled against democracy indicated that they responded....

[Menem, interrupting] This is something that has to be investigated because when Colonel Seineldin was consulted on the matter, he expressed his surprise and stated that he knew nothing about these incidents. Therefore, an investigation will be carried out.

[Channel 13] The last question I wanted to ask you is whether the Defense of Democracy Law will be applied because you have termed this a coup?

[Menem] Of course. Of course. It will be implemented fully.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Menem] It is possible that we will be lifting it during the course of this week. In other words, it could be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. Do not set a date for me.

[Unidentified correspondent] This week?

[Menem] This week.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Menem] No. Very soon I will have a meeting with the commanders, defense minister, and some ministers. After that, I am going to the wake for the victims of this uprising.

[Unidentified correspondent] The cost for our country at the international level on....

[Menem, interrupting] On the contrary, the country comes out of this totally strengthened way at the international level. Without any doubt.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] on the plans that this sector had, the Painted Faces, and in any case, can you identify the possible leaders who participated?

[Menem] Well, the list is long; in any case, you will be given it later on. We are going to disseminate the list of those who have been arrested and those who participated in this attempted coup.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Menem] I do not know. At this time, I do not know. The only thing I can say is that this has been definitively concluded. It has concluded. The Painted Faces and the entire circus that has harmed the country so much have been finished.

Is there anything more? Okay.

U.S. Bank Damaged by Bomb in Buenos Aires

PY0412105090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1010 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (TELAM)—A medium-sized bomb exploded this morning at a branch of the Bank of Boston at 3440 Santa Fe Avenue in Buenos Aires. The explosion caused damage, but no one was injured.

According to personnel from the 21st Police Precinct, which is handling the case, the bomb was planted in the Bank of Boston automatic cash dispenser. They added that the bomb exploded at about 0605 [0805 GMT] and that it damaged the wall, broke some windows, and damaged some desks inside the building.

The police stated that it was a medium-sized bomb and that Federal Judge Miguel Pons has undertaken proceedings on charges of "disruption of public order and damage."

Brazil

President Lauds Bush Approach to Debt Issue

PY0412041490 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0245 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Tonight U.S. President George Bush attended the last engagement on the agenda of his 27-hour visit to Brazil: A dinner hosted for him at Itamaraty by Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello. Presidents Bush and Collor were greeted by 200 people—including ministers, secretaries, governors, and congressmen—before the dinner at Itamaraty. Then, in the main room of Itamaraty Palace, Collor welcomed the visiting president with a 15-minute speech.

Collor voiced optimism on environmental issues and concern about Brazil's difficulties in making scientific and technological progress. He also discussed the foreign debt issue and expressed great satisfaction with the way the U.S. President has been treating the Brazilian debt renegotiation proposal.

[Begin Collor recording] I hope this attitude will spread among governments and societies—not only to the United States, but also to other creditor countries and international financial organizations. I appeal to your sensibility and leadership, Mr. President, to fulfill this objective. [end recording]

In a simple speech, President Bush conveyed his gratitude, cited the new Brazil of President Collor, and advocated a new world of freedom and democracy. Bush ended by toasting the U.S.-Brazilian friendship.

Commentator Notes Changes in Speech

PY0412043090 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0245 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Commentary by Alexandre Garcia]

[Text] Just as President Collor changed his speech after this morning's meeting, President Bush decided at the last minute to change the speech he was to deliver at the banquet. Judging from the translation released by Itamaraty, President Bush would have started by saying: Barbara conveys her best regards. Her doctors ordered her to stay clear of Air Force One for some time because she is suffering from sinusitis. President Bush realized that it was not the right time to say that. He was also supposed to say that his wife Barbara was being replaced by their daughter Dorothy, whom he calls Dotty and whom Itamaraty calls Doro.

President Bush liked the part in which President Collor said that after their meeting this morning, the talks between the two governments will be marked by agreements rather than by disagreements. President Bush made a point of looking at Collor and nodding affirmatively. Yet, what he liked most was the part where President Collor called the Brady Plan or the Americas integration plan, the Bush Plan.

Commentator Assesses Speech

PY0412045490 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0245 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Commentary by Paulo Henrique Amorim]

[Text] As President George Bush left the gala dinner here at Itamaraty Palace tonight, he was hoping to have conveyed a very clear message here in Brasilia: The idea of creating an integrated American market reaching from Canada and Alaska in the north to Patagonia, Argentina, in the south. The idea is to create a free, competitive market, without protectionism.

According to Bush, this would be the best way to face the unified Europe of 1992 as well as the overwhelming Japanese economic penetration worldwide. The idea is to give preference to free markets and free people. Today, the United States is the leading defender of the young Latin American democracies. Thus, what is good for the United States is good for Latin America.

President Collor Sends Support Message to Menem

PY0412000590 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Today President Fernando Collor sent a message to Argentine President Carlos Menem expressing his support and his hope that the military rebellion would be promptly quelled. In a telegram to President Carlos Menem, President Fernando Collor expressed, on behalf of himself and the Brazilian people, the most complete solidarity, and he reiterated the certainty that under the firm guidance of President Menem, constitutional order will prevail in the Argentine Republic, as well as the highest values of democracy, concord, and peace.

Journalist Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva, spokesman for the nation's president, reports:

[Begin Silva recording] Early today President Fernando Collor received a call from President Menem who told him that the rebellion in Argentina was localized and of minor proportions, and that it would be under control in a short time. On behalf of the Brazilian Government and people, President Collor sent a telegram to Argentine President Carlos Menem expressing solidarity and the firm conviction that democracy is here to stay in Latin America. [end recording]

CNEN Proposes 'Code of Nuclear Ethics'

PY0312112790 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Nov 90 p 20

[Text] Jose Luiz de Santana Carvalho, president of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN), will begin discussing the creation of a Code of Nuclear Ethics that will be similar to the code of ethics used by other professions in that it will guide, and when necessary punish, professionals of the Brazilian atomic energy sector. The first step will be taken tomorrow at the Brazilian Literary Academy when a roundtable meeting will be held for the topic of "Ethical and Moral Aspects of Nuclear Energy."

This is not the only counteroffensive being prepared by the Brazilian nuclear sector, which has been criticized so much in the recent past. According to the CNEN president, the governments of Brazil, Argentina, and India have already begun discussing ways—though informal so far—to reverse the current pressures that the developed countries are exerting on the nuclear projects of the developing countries.

Developed countries are "armed with nuclear weapons" and want to prevent other countries that are not "armed with nuclear weapons" from developing atomic technology, even for peaceful purposes. Santana said that the International Atomic Energy Agency should oversee the factories of atomic bombs in the United States, the Soviet Union, France, and Great Britain, to which it has never had access, instead of wanting to oversee the uranium enrichment installations of developing countries.

Regarding the Code of Nuclear Ethics, he said that following the clarification of the Brazilian nuclear program, the time has come to discuss the basis of the program with the Brazilian society.

Jader Barbalho Reelected Governor of Para State

PY0412104590 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Former Governor Jader Barbalho will return to the governorship of Para State. The Regional Electoral Court has just released the official results of the runoff elections and it confirmed the victory of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] candidate by a margin of 7,300 votes over the candidate of the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party].

* Program for Malnourished Children Launched

91SM0066A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Oct 90 p 10

[Text] Brasilia—The government will invest $2.5 billion over the next five years on programs to "rescue the victims of malnutrition"—a multitude that today comprises more than five million children up to five years of age. This statement was made by Minister of Health Alceni Guerra, who yesterday signed the initial agreements—of a total value of 33 million cruzeiros—to start up the System for Vigilance in the Area of Food and Nutrition (SISVAN). Based on the collection of data relating to the weight and height of the children, for example, the nation's health centers propose to detect situations involving nutritional deprivation and to initiate specific supplemental food programs.

The health minister regards the infant mortality rate in Brazil as "an open sore exposed to international criticism." Of every 1,000 children born, 64 do not survive until their first birthday. In the Northeast this rate rises to more than 100 per 1,000 births. With the creation of SISVAN—agreements were signed with Ceara, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, and Rio Grande do Sul—the Ministry of Health intends to plan more effectively its efforts to eliminate other factors associated with malnutrition such as diarrheal and respiratory diseases. Guerra said that the funds to be allocated to the program will also be used for the Supplementary Food Program of the Food and Nutrition Institute (INAN), which is already in operation. "We want to reach our goal ahead of time and reduce infant mortality to 30 per 1,000," he declared.

Nilson Martorelli, secretary of INAN [National Food and Nutrition Institute], expects that the funds provided by the ministry will solve the problem of a lack of resources for the PSA [expansion not given], which is awaiting approval of its supplementary budget by the National Congress. The program is currently providing assistance for 5.5 million children up to three years of age and 2.8 million pregnant women whose income is less than twice the minimum wage, and is distributing beans, rice, macaroni, reconstituted milk, and whole milk. When the health centers detect cases of malnutrition, the ministry will supply specific items of food through the PSA to combat the nutritional deficiencies that have been diagnosed.

Another objective of the program is to expand the category of children receiving assistance to include children up to five years of age. "The idea is to diagnose cases of malnutrition and provide these children with selective care," Nize Barbosa, director of the Nutritional Vigilance Program [as published], explained. She is sure that by 1992 the entire country will be collecting data and contributing to the system of information concerning malnutrition.

Basic Sanitation

Hugo Villegas, WHO [World Health Organization] representative in Brazil, said that if the government implements the promised measures, it will be able within a few years to reduce the nation's infant mortality rate. "Chile and Cuba adopted similar measures and in less than two years reduced infant mortality rates by 40 percent," he declared. "Brazil will be able to improve its situation, but it will have to take into account the fact that merely providing food does not solve the problem. Programs of basic sanitation and a better distribution of income are also necessary."

* Study Shows Government Majority in Chamber

91SM0066B Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Oct 90 p 5

[Article by Eliane Cantanhede: "Government Will Have Majority"; first paragraph is O ESTADO introduction]

[Text] Brasilia—The Fernando Collor administration will have a majority in the Chamber of Deputies as of 1 February. Of the 503 deputies elected, 253 are of the 11 parties of the Center that are aligned with Collor, and the administration is virtually certain to get the support of some of the 109 PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] deputies. "The liberals have a majority in the chamber," Professor of Statistics Jose Jorge, who conducted the survey, said yesterday. Jorge was elected to a third term as federal deputy for the PFL from Pernambuco.

According to Jose Jorge, any possibility of "Leftist influence" in the revision—scheduled for 1993—of the text of the Constitution has been virtually eliminated. The eight parties of the Center-Left have a total representation of 137 deputies, who remain in the minority even if reinforced by some of the PMDB deputies and by all four deputies of the small PRS [Social Reforms Party]—the party created by Helio Garcia, second-round candidate in Minas Gerais, who may oppose Collor but will vote with the liberals on the major issues.

"Theoretically, the Left no longer has anything to approve: it will only be making noise," Jose Jorge said derisively, pointing out that not even the presence of the 81 senators changes the imbalance that favors the liberals. "The Senate is always more liberal than the Chamber," he emphasizes. It is his view that the new Constitution will probably be even more markedly in favor of privatization and free enterprise than the present one. "Agrarian reform in productive lands? Out of the question," he opines, emphasizing that 250 bills to amend the text of the Constitution remain to be voted on. Among the controversial proposals, for example, are the agrarian reform itself, a 12 percent limit on bank interest, and the mineral question.

Presidential System Threatened

"Moreover, the parliamentary system will pass only if President Collor wants it to," the Pernambuco deputy insisted. He says that even on the Left those who favor the presidential system are in the majority: 92 deputies of the PDT [Democratic Worker's Party], PT [Workers Party], and PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party], led currently by the former governor and deputy-elect Miguel Arraes, a convinced supporter of the presidential system. On the other side of the Left there are a total of 45 supporters of the parliamentary system from the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], PCB [Brazilian Communist Party], and PCdoB [Communist Party of Brazil]. Jose Jorge acknowledges that the system of government could be changed, but only by the decision of Collor and the liberals.

To demonstrate that the PMDB is not likely to vote as a bloc, Jose Jorge cited the example of his own state, Pernambuco. Of the state's representation of 25 deputies, the PMDB elected only four: Wilson Campos, conservative, formerly a member of ARENA [National Renewal Alliance]; Fernando Bezerra Coelho, formerly a member of the PSD [Social Democratic Party] and former chief of the civilian household of former governor Roberto Magalhaes; Nilson Gibson, also a former member of ARENA, who is regarded as a kind of congressional spokesman for the military; and lastly, Maurilio Ferreira Lima, the only leftist of the four, who belongs to no particular group in Congress.

* Background, Negotiating Style of Jorio Dauster

91SM0074A Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 24 Oct 90 pp 42-45

[First paragraph is VEJA introduction]

[Text] Ambassador Jorio Dauster is ready for a fight as he goes to meet Brazil's creditors.

When it landed in Brasilia early last week after the latest round of negotiations with the creditors' committee, the mission headed by Ambassador Jorio Dauster was not carrying in its luggage a draft agreement on payment of the $60 billion owed to foreign private banks by Brazil. What it did have was a collection of the bankers' criticisms concerning the proposal it had presented in New York the week before. The committee of 22 creditor banks was unable to digest the Brazilian intention not to pay them a cent this year, to pay very little in 1991 and 1992, and then to pay off the bulk of the debt in installments through the year 2035. Accustomed to imposing a bread-and-water diet on the missions dispatched by the Brazilian Government to negotiate payment of the debt, the creditors had gotten used to making Brazil sign agreements they considered easy to swallow. This time they found themselves with a tough bone to chew.

On the other side of the table was Ambassador Jorio Dauster, a 52-year-old native of Rio de Janeiro. Raised in the Tijuca district, he was skillfully handling snooker cues in pool halls in Rio de Janeiro's Northern Zone long before entering the Rio Branco School, which is where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs trains its diplomats. "My partner might have been a pickpocket," recalls Dauster. It was this man, who has been married to photographer Lucia Dauster Vivacqua for 30 years, has two sons, and is known for the skillful way in which he expresses his ideas at the bargaining table, whom President Fernando Collor de Mello entrusted with the mission of negotiating Brazil's foreign debt. "I took an immersion course in debt," says the ambassador, whose special field, even though he studied economics in the United States and Canada, is actually the international coffee trade. "I studied more than a meter of documents and talked to a good many former negotiators of the Brazilian debt," Dauster says. For someone who has never before confronted Brazil's creditors face to face, Dauster, who is revealing no details on how he has been conducting the talks with the bankers, is doing very well. Although he has not yet gotten an agreement, he has made it very clear that he is not prepared to swallow the first proposal the banking men pull out of their coat pockets.

Wallflower—Ambassador Jorio Dauster surprised the bankers with whom he negotiated in New York two weeks ago. And for committee members who had grown bored during previous rounds of talks, the surprise was a pleasant one. The cartel's old bag of tricks, which had been used to wear out nearly a dozen teams sent by Brazilian governments, contains many ploys, but one is used routinely: the "wallflower." The Brazilian delegation enters the big building housing the offices of Sherman & Sterling (with its grotesque painting by Frank Stella entitled "Salto nel Mio Sacco") and discovers that all the members of the bank committee have not yet arrived. The delay seems reasonable, considering that while the Brazilians generally number 10 and travel together, the bankers number about 40 and come from the most varied addresses and countries. On at least one occasion, the Brazilian negotiator found himself and his entire team consigned to a small room with no windows. In that case at least, the humiliation was premeditated.

On the afternoon of Friday the 12th, Dauster was in the law offices of Arnold and Porter, the attorneys representing the Brazilian Government's interests, and the meeting was scheduled for 1500 hours. Since the distance between the two buildings was three blocks, Dauster's men put in a telephone call to Sherman & Sterling. They wanted to know if everybody had arrived. They were told that a few were not there yet. The Brazilian negotiators asked to be notified by telephone when the team of creditors was on the field. Around 1600 hours, the bank committee telephoned to say that everything was ready, and Jorio arrived within a few minutes. He was told that it would be necessary to wait for a few more bankers to arrive. He agreed, waited 10 minutes, and then, to the surprise of the banker he spoke to, announced that at 1630 hours he was leaving. Within a few minutes, the meeting began.

Anonymous Banker: The second ploy consists of the delayed document. In general, this occurs at night, when the teams are tired. During a round of negotiations in Paris in 1986, Minister Dilson Funaro's representative rejected an article in the text of an agrement at 1500 hours, talked into the night, and, at 0300 hours, was handed a document with the new wording. He took the trouble to read the file of papers, and there was the article he had rejected hours before. The creditors apologized and asked that the incident not be recorded in the notes on the talks. At 2000 hours on the 12th [October 1990], when the round of talks in New York had ended, the chairman of the cartel, William Rhodes, handed Dauster a draft joint communique. Dauster read it and announced that it would be necessary to change a few of the ideas expressed. Rhodes explained that several bankers had already returned to their hotels and that it was therefore impossible to make any changes. Dauster politely suggested that Rhodes issue the document as being a statement by the banks. There was no joint communique, and an anonymous banker was sent out by the creditors to tell the press that the Brazilian proposal had made it impossible even to begin the talks.

Dauster is not surprised. He knows that the talks will begin somehow and that they will be long and difficult. The cartel has experience with these things and has received intensive training in ways to make its opponents change their minds. The banks' samurai committee, which does the negotiating, has been in the arena for many years doing battle with negotiators from 39 debtor countries. Some members of the bank committee work at it full time, and there are even courses in negotiating techniques to improve their skills.

"The debt agreements have not been realistic since 1983," says the diplomat. "Everyone—the creditors as well as Brazil—has always pretended that the agreements were going to be fulfilled, even though they all knew that the country was going to behave like the drunk who can pick himself up after a fall but then immediately falls down again," he says. The ambassador always uses colorful images of that kind to put across his viewpoints in his even-tempered and serious tone of voice. Those who hear him usually come away impressed with the conversation. "He has always been brilliant," says Deputy Francisco Dornelles (PFL [Liberal Front Party], Rio de Janeiro), a childhood friend of Dauster's. The two were neighbors in Rio de Janeiro's Tijuca district and attended the Military School together.

Cadet Sergeant—In that school's chain of command, in which the students are given military ranks up to colonel, he never got past sergeant. "He was not cut out in any way for a military career," says Rio de Janeiro attorney Ayrton Liserra, another of Dauster's friends from their younger days. Being very bad at mathematics but good in Portuguese, Dauster decided to become a diplomat. He flunked his first attempt to enter the Rio Branco School, which is where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs trains its people, but passed the entrance exam on his second try in 1959 and graduated first in his class. His career could have been a brilliant one from the start, but it collided with the military movement of 1964—Dauster belonged to the group that was known, in the Brazilian diplomatic jargon of the time, as the "Itamaraty [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] Left," and Bruno, one of his three brothers, was banned from Brazil for joining terrorist organizations. Already married to Lucia, Dauster was demoted and spent six months with nothing to do. "He went through some tough times," says his friend Ayrton Liserra.

Black List—The man who is now representing the Brazilian Government wandered forgotten through Itamaraty's back corridors for many years. He occupied positions in Canada and Prague and, on his return, found his career at a standstill. He was still second secretary, a position he reached on the strength of seniority, and was thinking of abandoning his diplomatic career. When President Ernesto Geisel took office, Minister of Foreign Affairs Azeredo da Silva noticed that about 100 diplomats with less time in service than Dauster had been promoted while Dauster was still marking time in subordinate positions. Silveira broached the matter with Geisel, who sent word that Dauster could be promoted to first secretary.

With his record clean, it was discovered that the guy bearing a slight resemblance to reporter Clark Kent, Superman's mild-mannered "cover," could fly very well indeed. With his large-rimmed eyeglasses, which are the most noticeable feature of his face, Ambassador Jorio Dauster is a man with a calm and friendly voice, but he wears a blue and red outfit under his well-tailored suits. As a negotiator, he can play a tough game for a considerable time, as he is doing now with a debt plan which was cooked up at the Ministry of Economy and which has too much pepper to suit the taste of the bankers. As he has already demonstrated in negotiations he has conducted in the past, Dauster is capable of spending hours talking to an intransigent opposite party without altering his tone of voice. In 1975, when he was serving as Brazil's representative at the International Coffee Organization in London (at the beginning of his career, he had taken a course in coffee negotiations in which one of his teachers was Antonio Delfim Netto, now a deputy), he handled complicated negotiations and acquitted himself very well. "He was always firm and calm and had good arguments," says Camilo Calazans, who was chairman of the Brazilian Coffee Institute [IBC] at the time.

Napoleon—At a meeting between coffee-producing and coffee-consuming countries in 1975, the time was 1700 hours, and no progress was being made with the talks because neither Dauster nor Paul Keating, representing the U.S. Government, would give up their positions. When the deadlock was complete, the envoy from the Salvadoran Coffee Company, Ricardo Faer, interrupted the meeting to relate an anecdote. He said that a mental hospital in his country had been on the verge of experiencing a serious conflict because two of its patients both claimed to be Napoleon Bonaparte. Since only one could be the real Napoleon, there was imminent chaos. The hospital director stepped in and ordered that the two men be locked up in a room until they themselves decided which was the real Napoleon. Some time later, the pair opened the door and emerged arm in arm. "Well, which one is Napoleon?" the director wanted to know. One of the patients answered: "He is. I'm Josephine." Upon finishing his anecdote, Faer suggested that Dauster and Keating decide who would be Napoleon. "In the case of the negotiations on the Brazilian debt, I am sure that Dauster is the one who will be Napoleon," says Camilo Calazans.

Another trump card taken to the negotiating table by Dauster is patience, a virtue he demonstrated back when he was being kept on the sidelines at Itamaraty and later when former President Tancredo Neves was putting together what was going to be his government team. At the time, Dauster's friend Francisco Dornelles—Tancredo's nephew and minister of finance—offered Dauster the chairmanship of the IBC. Tancredo died, and since he left no written record that he had chosen Dauster, his vice president, Jose Sarney, ended up appointing Karlos Rischbieter to head the IBC. Dauster was again offered the job in 1987, and he remained there until the Sarney administration ended.

Field of Rye: The negotiator of Brazil's foreign debt is not one of those men who have selective tastes in their battle with books and read two or three a week all in a jumble. He reads everything that falls into his hands, provided that it is good, but is incapable of being an exhibitionist about books. But his curriculum vitae includes the translation of such books as "Catcher in the Rye" by the American J.D. Salinger, a kind of modern classic on adolescence. He stopped translating because one time he earned only $51 for all the hellish work he had put in. He does not complain about the money aspect, but says he is a man with no possessions except two automobiles and the money he spent educating his sons, Rodrigo and Gustavo, who have always studied at U.S. universities. He lacks the day-to-day organization needed for fitting tennis into his work schedule, for example, he complains of a poor memory—possibly just a sign of fatigue—and certainly would not disagree with anyone who advised him to smoke less.

Through Dauster, the Ministry of Economy wants to break the circle of dependence which currently exists between negotiations with the private banks, the IMF, and the Paris Club. At present, the start of talks with the Paris Club depends on successful negotiations with the IMF, and in turn, those negotiations will be made easier if a good atmosphere surrounds the talks with the private banks. The problem here is that for the time being, the first term of that equation—a good understanding with the banks—carries the wrong sign. The bankers were not at all satisfied with the Brazilian proposal.

The essential thing for Brazil is to tie its disbursements to the country's ability to pay. The way in which that will be done is not of the slightest importance. The important thing, as the secretary of economic policy, Antonio Kandir, explains it, is to define the source of the funds with which Brazil will make payments. "If the creditors find sources different from the ones we have proposed, that will be fine." One of Dauster's missions is to show the creditors that if there is more new money than expected, Brazil will be able to pay more to them. And if the situation is the reverse, the banks will receive less. And that is what he is doing.

Quotes from Dauster

"In the past, the foreign debt ruled the Brazilian economy. It was like the tail wagging the dog."

"'Failure to pay'is an expression used in connection with irresponsible people. The negotiations must not be conducted in an emotional context—in the atmosphere of a game between Rio de Janeiro's two soccer teams."

"Brazil has been placed in the position of being an unfit and irresponsible country. While the agreement was clearly irresponsible and there was a bad borrower, there was a bad lender at the other end—it was a matter of comanagement."

"In the takeoff phase, a vulture is all it takes to knock down a Boeing. If there is excessive debt service over the next few years, Brazil will not resume its growth."

"It is part of the spirit of colonial subservience for some people to be worried just because the creditor banks are not happy."

"Choosing a debt negotiator was a wise decision. Previously, it was the chairman of the Central Bank or the minister of finance who went. That was like sending the general into the trenches. I am the edge of the emery wheel."

"In addition to winning credibility with the rest of the world, we need to win credibility here at home. Who would seriously consider buying a government security as his first investment choice?"

"My only assets are the education I gave my sons. I don't even have an apartment in my name—just two cars."

"I an a disorganized fellow. On my tombstone, it will say: 'He missed his tennis lesson this morning.'"

Youthful Activity

Jorio Dauster studied at the Rio de Janeiro Military School, where he never got past the rank of cadet sergeant. In his adolescence, he was a good snooker player in the pool halls of Rio de Janeiro's Northern Zone, he liked Portuguese, and he was very poor at mathematics. He took an entrance exam to study law, but wound up in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He specialized in coffee and has ended up on the grater of the foreign debt.

Creation of Folklore Behind the Scenes

A week after Ambassador Jorio Dauster presented the international banks with the Collor administration's proposal for paying off the Brazilian foreign debt, a plan of attack for the U.S. creditor banks was decided on. That plan calls for discrediting the initiative so as to renegotiate it under the best possible conditions. To renegotiate it, the creditors' committee is sending banker Lawrence Brainard of Bankers Trust, one of its most competent experts, to Brazil. He and the Federal bureaucracy will discuss the numerology behind the "ability-to-pay" concept which the government intends to use to alter the system for negotiating the $60 billion owed to the banks.

Two avenues for discrediting the initiative have been chosen. The first calls for presenting the proposal as "unacceptable" to anonymous bankers. The second calls for creating a little folklore by taking ridiculous steps to reduce the effort to its picturesque aspects. In an article appearing in THE NEW YORK TIMES on the 12th of this month, reporter Jonathan Fuerbringer said that "the proposal includes conversion of the debt into 45-year capitalization bonds and a lottery to determine which banks will be paid first." (The only living being named in that article was William Rhodes, chairman of the cartel of banks.) On Thursday, a telegram along the same lines was sent from London by Reuters. It mentioned only the 45-year securities and "a kind of lottery for deciding which banks would be paid first." Actually, what Ambassador Jorio Dauster had offered the banks was three different types of securities, an auction, and, almost as a requirement of contractual logic, a drawing to be held in case no one appeared to pick up the securities at auction.

Some Attraction: Discrediting the proposal has an immediate advantage: it helps close the doors on the $2 billion in credit which is dependent upon the IMF and also helps intimidate the Treasury Department, which has been pressuring the banks for nearly 2 years to reduce the Third World's debt. Since 1982, when the foreign debt soap opera began, no negotiation has ever ended with the conditions set forth in the initial proposals, and Brainard's trip to Brazil is a sign that the banks do not intend to end the talks. The aggressive Brainard is the author of several works on the Brazilian renegotiation, he was the mastermind behind the failed agreement of 1988, and in April of this year, he showed himself to be a tough critic of the Collor administration's stand: "That is not a strategy for renegotiating. President Collor and his economic advisors seem to believe there is a basic conflict between the necessary requirements for economic growth and payment of the foreign debt." He was right.

The proposal which the anonymous bankers say "leads nowhere" has had a surprising effect on the small secondary market, where holders of Brazilian securities sell them at daily auctions at prices ranging from 20 to 25 cents. On the day after the Brazilian proposal was presented, those securities remained stable at 23 cents, but on Thursday of last week, when it was learned that the Brazilian Government was proposing to pay $1.1 billion of the $10 billion it owes in back interest, those securities jumped from 23.25 cents to 24.50 cents. In other words, no matter how unacceptable and ridiculous that proposal may have been, the market saw something attractive about it at the same time that one bank was considering it advisable to unload one more piece of Brazilian debt. As a member of the committee, Lawrence Brainard's Bankers Trust wants to receive 9 cents in annual interest on every dollar it has lent to Brazil (meaning that it would receive about 30 cents over three years), but it sold a few million dollars worth of Brazilian paper to Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] at a little over 20 cents.

* Avibras Ships Rockets, Ammunition to Riyadh

91SM0066D Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Oct 90 p 9

[Article by Roberto Godoy: "Avibras Ships Arms to Riyadh"]

[Text] Campinas—The first partial shipment of an order sold by Avibras, of Sao Jose dos Campos, to the government of Saudi Arabia and consisting of ammunition, propellant, and 10,000 rockets of the three types used by the Astros-II multiple launcher was scheduled for embarkation early this morning at Viracopos International Airport in Campinas. The shipment of approximately 250 tons of armament was transported early yesterday morning in a convoy of 17 transport trucks and 14 support vehicles—including a mobile office—from the Avibras factory in Jacarei, in the Paraiba River Valley. Another shipment is expected today, but whether it will complete the export of the order—which totals 1,800 tons—is not known.

Contract

The shipment is in fulfillment of the contract—valued at $69 million (approximately 6.9 billion cruzeiros)—that was concluded in early September by Avibras president Joao Verdi de Carvalho Neto and Prince Sultan bin Abd al-Aziz, brother of King Fahd. The company maintained complete secrecy concerning the transaction, which was revealed exclusively by O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO on 20 September.

This initial shipment—which may include a replacement SS-30 launcher—had been stored since 0600 hours yesterday in the Infraero [Brazilian Airport Support Enterprise] warehouses at Viracopos. In two hours early this morning it was transferred to cargo planes chartered from a number of international airlines. The planes then took off for Riyadh, still in the early morning. The total shipment is expected to require at least 16 flights. Avibras refused to comment on the shipment, which was confirmed by the Infraero superintendent at Viracopos, Mozart Mascarenhas Alemao.

The shipment which is beginning to be sent to Saudi Arabia is part of a shipment that was originally destined for Iraq but was canceled when the Bagdad authorities failed to pay past-due bills amounting to $40 million. The sale currently represents financial relief for Avibras, which has entered into a composition with its creditors to manage a debt of $200 million. Of the contract's total value of $69 million, the company will receive within the next few days a down payment of at least $11 million. This equals the total of the labor debts of the company, which at one time had as many as 5,500 employees and today has barely 10 percent of that number. Avibras is currently negotiating a new contract worth $410 million.

Astros-II

The principal user of the Astros-II system is the Iraqi Army, which used the equipment extensively during the war against Iran—and also in the invasion of Kuwait—although only in secondary positions that were hit on the second day of the attack. The forces of Saddam Husayn have 160 mobile launchers, and the Ministry of the Military Industries is constructing its own rockets—copies of the Brazilian models—to resupply with ammunition the batteries that consist basically of six vehicles: four firing units, two reloading units, and possibly an electronic control center. A complex of this type costs $10 million.

Each mobile launcher can launch 32 SS-30 rockets (ogive of 20 kilograms, range of 32 kilometers), 16 SS-40 rockets (payload of 35 kilograms, range of 45 kilometers), and four SS-60 rockets (150 kilograms in the warhead, with the potential for carrying multiple subcaliber ammunition, and a range of 70 kilometers. The ogives are of three types: antitank, antipersonnel, and incendiary. Saudi Arabia purchased, in 1983 and 1985, six batteries (36 vehicles) equipped with sophisticated electronic support resources, including advanced land navigation equipment.

* Military Convenes To Debate Low Wage Issue

* 20 Meetings Held

91SM0075A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Oct 90 p 14

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—At least 20 meetings by sublieutenants and NCO's in the Army, Navy, and Air Force have been held secretly in Rio de Janeiro over the past 10 days to discuss pay issues. The former minister-Air Force chief of staff, Brigadier General Paulo Roberto Camarinha, who was dismissed from his post in 1988 by then President Jose Sarney for demanding better pay for the military, has warned that those meetings may lead to the reappearance of the "Eagle Command," which was the name of the 1963 mutiny by Navy and Air Force NCO's attempting to overthrow President Joao Goulart because of their low pay. Other meetings are scheduled over the next few days.

The meetings took place in residential condominiums in the surburbs and in Rio de Janeiro's northern zone, where officers and enlisted men live, and were organized by leaders concentrated in the barracks of the Rio de Janeiro military garrison, examples being the battalions of the Parachute Brigade and the Cavalry, which are considered elite troops. Circulating among the military is a report that the military ministers tried to persuade President Fernando Collor to grant a pay raise of only 30 percent.

The minister of aeronautics himself, Brigadier General Socrates da Costa Monteiro, said on Air Force Day (23 October) that the 30-percent increase was distressing. "In the past, members of the Armed Forces have been required to sacrifice their own lives in the defense of freedom and democracy, and now they are being asked to sacrifice well-being and debate and to show understanding of the current hour," the general said.

Criticism

Dissatisfaction has also reached the top military echelon: the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA). Lieutenant Colonel Arandi Cunha Moraes of the Air Force and Lieutenant Commander Edson Alves Lopes of the Navy were under arrest for a week in July by order of the Armed Forces chief of staff, General Jonas Correa. They had complained about low pay at an EMFA meeting and were immediately punished and prohibited from revealing the reason for their punishment. Captain Enir dos Reis of the Dental Corps is another example of the dissatisfaction. He was arrested last week after granting an interview in which he criticized the low pay.

The Army Media Center and the Eastern Military Command said yesterday that they knew nothing about the meetings by the military in Rio de Janeiro.

* Air Minister's Comments

91SM0075B Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Oct 90 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—The minister of aeronautics, Brigadier General Socrates Monteiro, said yesterday that the advance pay increase of 30 percent granted to civilian and military personnel by the government was distressing. According to the minister, what it amounts to is "oxygen that will enable the patient to live until January." He described the fight against inflation as a war in which "it is necessary that everyone be involved." He made his remarks after presiding over a ceremony at the Brasilia Air Base at which the Aeronautical Order of Merit was awarded to various authorities, including ministers, secretaries, and officers, in commemoration of Air Force Day.

In his order of the day, the minister of aeronautics emphasized:

"Brazil is going through arduous times in its effort to be free of social discord, unemployment, underdevelopment, and the lack of schools and hospitals. Our duty is our participation in that struggle. In the past, in time of war, we—the Armed Forces—were required to sacrifice our own lives in defense of the principles of freedom and democracy. What is being asked for now is our sacrifice of well-being and debate and our understanding of the current hour."

The minister asked those under his command not to compare themselves with other segments of society, which are "not yet aware of their duty." He said the Armed Forces were engaged in the struggle against inflation, social injustice, the lack of opportunities, the abandonment of children, and other evils afflicting society. He said, however, that the Brazilian Air Force's greatest commitment "is to follow the supreme commander in his efforts to rescue this long-suffering people by supporting his zeal and sharing responsibilities."

During an interview following the ceremony, the minister said that in his opinion, inflation "of 10 percent, 11 percent, or nine percent is irrelevant. The important thing is participation in the struggle. Those who have more should give more; those who have less cannot give more." According to the minister, those most committed to the fight against inflation are those who do not earn much.

Those awarded [the Order of Merit] were Ministers Alceni Guerra and Antonio Magri; Secretaries Joao Santana, Jose Goldemberg, and Ipojuca Pontes; the attorney general of the republic, Aristides Junqueira; and other civilians and military personnel.

* Disparity in Recent Military Punishments Viewed

91SM0096A Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 7 Nov 90 p 35

[Text] Several scenes of insubordination occurred in Brazilian military barracks last week. For example:

- In Recife, General Dirceu Ribas Correa, commanding officer of the 7th Military Region, said in an interview that "if the Brasil Novo Plan does not work out, the military will have to be on the alert in order to prevent disorder in this country."
- In Rio de Janeiro, officers on active duty in the Army, including some colonels, have already held nine meetings to complain about their pay.
- In Brasilia, Lieutenant Geraldo Mendonca de Lima, leader of the Dragoes da Independencia band, agreed to be interviewed by VEJA and received its reporter and photographer without asking his superiors for authorization. Three weeks ago, the lieutenant's band had played the song "Besame Mucho" after conferring a military decoration on Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello.
- Also in Brasilia, two sergeants from the Dragoes regiment authorized VEJA reporters to come into the barracks and talk with the lieutenant, again without seeking the authorization of their superiors.

These incidents were handled according to the same standard: the higher the rank, the less severe the punishment.

- General Ribas Correa received a request for explanations from his chief—General Luiz Ururahy, military commander for the Northeast—and Ururahy received a request for explanations from the office of Minister Carlos Tinoco in Brasilia. General Ribas Correa responded that he had been misquoted, and General Ururahy forwarded that explanation to Brasilia.
- No action was taken against the officers on active duty who took part in the labor union movement.
- Lieutenant Lima was punished by three days in jail.
- Each of the sergeants was given ten days in prison.

All these incidents are defined as insubordination but, obviously, they differ in seriousness. By allowing outsiders to enter the barracks without authorization from superiors, the two sergeants broke the rules. The same is true of the band leader when he decided on his own initiative to give an interview while on military premises. Outside the barracks, those penalties were interpreted as punishment for choosing the wrong time to play "Besame Mucho." Regiment commander Colonel Wilson Guerra Mello discards this theory. "The punishments had nothing to do with the music played for Zelia," he said. The disparity between the penalties creates some odd legal precedents, according to which it is more serious for two sergeants to allow journalists to enter the barracks than for a general to give an interview saying that the military should be ready to deal with "disorder."

On the issue of military pay, Army Minister Carlos Tinoco personally visited the main union stronghold of the captains of that branch of the service—the Officer Training School, Esao, in Rio. Behind this activity is a fairly well-known personality: Captain (Res) Jair Bolsonaro, who became famous in the past when he disclosed that he had planned to explode a bomb in Rio de Janeiro to call his superiors' attention to the same issue—salaries. Here we see a classic type of behavior on the subject. Every time the government freezes the pay of public servants in the hope of cutting spending and bringing down inflation, there is a reaction—at the top. When he found out that the government would be giving the military a 30 percent early pay raise in November Aeronautics Minister Brigadier General Socrates Monteiro minced no words. "That raise is distressing," he said. "People used to demand that members of the Armed Forces sacrifice their very lives in the defense of freedom and democracy; now they are asking them to sacrifice comfort." By referring to "sacrifice" and "comfort," the minister is advancing a line of reasoning that, if extended to other Brazilians, would lead people who in the past also saw their daily lives diminished by a regime characterized by neither freedom nor democracy to feel entitled to ask the government for a raise in pay.

In that sequence of exoticisms, the statement by General Dirceu Correa is notable for its resonance. The Constitution tells us that military commanders are not supposed to say what they will do in this country, either in times of crisis or when things are going well—their obligation is to obey in silence the orders of the president of the Republic. Raising the specter of a hypothetical failure of the government's economic policy as the pretext for an intervention intended to combat unrest is unwarranted. Since 1980, Brazil has already experienced five different anti-inflationary plans. All of them failed, yet this country has never lived under a regime that affords freedoms as broad as does the present one.

* Rezek Views GATT, Tlatelolco, Arms Sales

91SM0109A Sao Paulo ISTOE SENHOR
in Portuguese 14 Nov 90 pp 4-6

[Interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs Jose Francisco Rezek, by Bob Fernandes. First three paragraphs are ISTOE SENHOR introduction.]

[Text] In May 1968, a student, Jose Francisco Rezek, traversed the burning city of Paris and reached the Brazilian Embassy. There he received some money sent by his family, who were living in Santa Rita do Sapucai in southern Minas Gerais State, and returned to the school where he was majoring in international legal relations. A fine Italian silk tie and a package of the bread that appeased the hunger of hundreds of persons who had laid siege to the university were the trophies Rezek captured. Now at age 46, as Brazil's minister of foreign affairs, the Minas native Rezek, former president of the Supreme Electoral Court, pursues a dream. More than a dream, really—he is seeking a utopia: seeing Brazil seated at the table of the First World.

It is not by chance that Rezek refers to the immeasurable reserves of "saintly patience" which the post demands he show toward outside interlocutors. "Either they are very poorly informed, or the people that are briefing them are unfairly biased," the minister says when referring to

European and U.S. doubts about Brazil and its weapons sales and nuclear production. In the duel for world market shares, the specialist in international legal matters notes with irony "the astounding tenacity of the North Americans in the defense of their interests" and takes a shot at Carla Hills, the American sheriff in this territory, saying: "She certainly earns her civil servant's salary."

One notes that Minister Rezek, perhaps because of the extremely difficult mission which the country has assigned to him and which sometimes involves explaining the inexplicable, has found himself obliged to raise the tone of his cordial oratory by a few notches. That is what happened, for example, in the recent episode involving Brazil and the British section of Amnesty International. That organization produced a slapdash advertisement—poorly crafted, poorly explained, and poorly addressed—, which said: "Brazil has figured out how to get its children off the streets: by killing them." Yan Martin, secretary-general of Amnesty, after receiving a tough letter from the minister, wrote to President Collor and apologized. Rezek, in his search for utopia, acknowledges that some exterminations have occurred in Brazil, but abandoned the traditionally defensive posture and heatedly told the British: "This advertisement was a terrible low blow."

[Fernandes] What really are Brazil's positions in the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade, GATT? Are Brazil and other countries actually discussing the possibility of withdrawing from the negotiations if the EEC maintains its subsidies on farm products, and would President Collor defend that strategic withdrawal, as people say he would?

[Rezek] We would not gain anything by our absence. Under any circumstance would a country benefit by staying away from any negotiation. It is true, however, that if countries which subsidize agricultural exports—most notably those of Western Europe—put themselves in an inflexible position, this would jeopardize the outcome of the Uruguay round. That is the point at which our position is in harmony with that of the U.S.

[Fernandes] But there are also complaints against U.S. subsidies, right?

[Rezek] The U.S. subsidizes exporters of soybeans and soybean oil, especially, and they tax our orange juice very heavily when it enters their market. As for soybeans and oil—well, both of us export these products. And if they subsidize theirs, it reduces our competitiveness. The U.S. argument is that they are only following a minimally defensive policy.

[Fernandes] And is it?

[Rezek] They say they would like to see the subsidies fall and would very gladly remove their own, which are very low when compared with the European subsidies. That is the point at which so much difficulty is being experienced in the final phase of the talks.

[Fernandes] And when will that be decided?

[Rezek] The countries that oppose the subsidy are somewhat discouraged about the European position. Now, and also within the Uruguay round of GATT, some of our positions differ from those of the Americans.

[Fernandes] Such as...

[Rezek] The issue of the balance of payments and some other lesser issues. By the way, when U.S. Ambassador Carla Hills received an award from the Brazilian-American Chamber of Commerce, she made reference to a circumstance in which, unfortunately—and these are her words—the liberal and open-minded positions of the president of Brazil are not being properly communicated by our negotiators in Geneva. Well, the president knows our negotiators are professionals of the highest caliber and adhere faithfully to our policy. It is just that things are not as simple as some members of the U.S. administration would like people to believe.

[Fernandes] Unless we are mistaken, they have been complaining about the delays, and about the gap between what is said in the speeches and the actual implementation.

[Rezek] The Americans are tired of hearing that there is an appropriate pace at which the system can be changed. Some countries have asked for ten years, others eight, still others seven. I do not know why it is that in Brazil things are supposed to happen in ten days. At any rate, I applaud—I cannot help but respect and admire—the fantastic energy with which the Americans defend their interests. However, not all their interests coincide with ours.

[Fernandes] You mean that all that energy put forth by Carla Hills is part of the show?

[Rezek] Precisely. She is, at any rate, playing her part with extraordinary brilliance and certainly earning her salary as a top-level civil servant. It is just that she should be able to understand that our negotiators in Geneva are Brazilians, professionals in the Brazilian diplomatic service, and are doing their job, which is to defend the interests of Brazil.

[Fernandes] Brazil and Argentina are proposing to introduce some safeguards into the Treaty of Tlatelolco concerning nuclear issues which, if accepted, would enable both countries to adhere to it.

[Rezek] Tlatelolco is a continental treaty signed in Mexico City in 1967, a year before the TNP [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty], which is broader in scope. It attempts to ensure the peaceful use of nuclear energy and seeks to guarantee that no nuclear testing will be done for military purposes south of Rio Grande do Sul.

[Fernandes] What is the status of the treaty today, and what are Brazil and Argentina proposing?

[Rezek] There is an annex that is not meant to be signed by the member countries of the treaty, but by others that are not part of the Americas but had a territorial interest here at the time—a colony or a protected colonial area such as French Guiana, for example. Great Britain and the United States also fell into this category. Those countries signed that annex. France did not, and I have not been able to get a definitive position statement from them, but since they are usually clear when they do not want something, their silence indicates that they do not strongly object.

[Fernandes] And what is the position of Brazil and Argentina?

[Rezek] Article 28 says that in committing itself under Tlatelolco, a country may state that, for it, the specific application of the treaty, its observance in daily affairs, does not begin immediately, but only when all the countries are covered by it, when they have ratified the treaty. What Article 28 says, more or less, is "everyone, or no one." That means that the time has not yet come.

[Fernandes] Physicist Luis Pinguelli Rosa says that within two years Brazil will have the ability to produce the bomb...

[Rezek] In saying that, all he was doing was emphasizing that we are not beginners, that we are not incompetent. As for having the ability—well, it would be incredible if Brazil, at this point in its technological development, were not capable. It would be incredible if, in a country like this one, we had the political desire to work on strategic nuclear equipment but could not do it. What we have is a political determination on the part of the head of government not to work with nuclear energy except in its strictly peaceful aspects.

[Fernandes] This dream, this wish to see Brazil at the table of the First World, this denuclearization policy—have these not been dealt a setback by the kind of presence Brazil has in Iraq?

[Rezek] Brazil was observed intensely during that period, and the fact that our conduct was beyond reproach enabled us to come out of the critical phase unscathed by any kind of attack. This country had an intense relationship with Iraq, and that cooperation between the two countries was beneficial—it was an exchange of products. They sold us, honorably, the petroleum that we needed, and they bought food and dozens of other things from us. There was also a line of military exports that had ended, had already ended in 1988, so much so that since two years before the crisis a group of engineers, Brigadier General Piva's group, has remained there.

[Fernandes] And that was a little strange, was it not?

[Rezek] That was a somewhat controversial point. We were no longer selling armaments to Iraq when the crisis hit us, although in the northern hemisphere one minute it was the press, the next minute the congressmen, and then it happened among the observers: people were confusing a group of Brazilians with Brazil itself. People confused the country as it is today with what it was in 1988, or 1985.

[Fernandes] Is there not some hypocrisy in that?

[Rezek] There is a fantastic amount of hypocrisy. Brazil took the high road in this episode, because it established standards of conduct for itself, performed its self-criticism to the extent necessary, and did not defend itself by accusing those other countries, the ones that were really exporting armaments of much greater strategic value to a lot of countries in that same region. Brazil limited itself to taking the position that it might be more analytical and more prudent in the arms trade in the future.

[Fernandes] What was the basic diplomatic argument used to get the Brazilians out of Iraq?

[Rezek] Our diplomats convinced the Iraqi Government that this crisis would end some day, that the embargo would end some day. Both countries will continue to exist. Even laying aside the strategic trade, there are innumerable lines of commercial trade. We also warned the Iraqi Government that it was creating, here in Brazil, an atmosphere of nascent hostility against a government that was holding Brazilians, and that this could jeopardize the future.

[Fernandes] Once this crisis is over, what will Brazil's policy be regarding arms sales?

[Rezek] Brazil today is simply convinced that it is essential to act with extreme prudence and make certain analyses relating to the political future before getting involved in that kind of trade. We know now that, even after the gulf crisis is over, there is some aviation equipment, not necessarily military, being sold to Saudi Arabia. We know that no one outside opposed this, or looked askance at it, since Saudi Arabia, judging from its past history and its style of government, is a country that would not fire a single rifle in an offensive military action.

[Fernandes] So, in short, Brazil would not sell weapons to potentially bellicose nations? By the way, we note that right after President Bush's visit comes the visit by the Iranian foreign minister. Would Brazil sell arms to Iran?

[Rezek] We have not ruled it out, but neither is it on our agenda. Moreover, any prospective deal with Iran would take a little longer, would require some reflection. Although from the point of view of the Brazilian Government, Iran has turned over a new leaf since that period. The Iranians are sensible; they know what Brazil is and what it stands for, and this must have influenced the Iranian decision to immediately offer us all the petroleum we needed.

[Fernandes] By the way, does Brazil intend, as it did in relation to Iraq, concentrate a large portion of its purchases in a single country, in this case Iran?

[Rezek] Not really. If Venezuela can go from 8,000 or 10,000 to 50,000 barrels a day that is a proportionately large increase, but it is only 42,000 barrels more. And so we are also buying from Nigeria and Malaysia. It is always a good idea to diversify, but it is also very nice to know that if we had no alternative, Iran, all by itself, could supply the 200,000 barrels a day that are no longer coming from Iraq and Kuwait.

[Fernandes] The issue of the sale of supercomputers to Brazil, which seemed to be on track, has gotten complicated...

[Rezek] It has run into some difficulties, but things have been straightened out...

[Fernandes] Difficulties bearing the surname "Hills"?

[Rezek] Not this time. This was the result of the proverbial lack of concern by statesmen in the northern hemisphere as to whether the information available to them is current or not. Two U.S. senators decided to propose an amendment that was openly directed at Brazil, banning the sale of products like the supercomputer on the grounds of our military cooperation with Iraq. That is, they were talking about something that, when it occurred, was not a bit more than what they themselves were doing. That lack of commitment to obtaining current information is something that requires us to have the patience of a saint.

[Fernandes] You mention patience, but what we see is impatience...

[Rezek] Like telling the bishop of Pistoia that the human rights violations which His Excellency is complaining about and the constant friction between Church and state were indeed a reality in 1974-75, but not now? The prelate's sources and those of the congressmen and so many European statesmen are either unfairly biased, or they are people with a surprising lack of ability to furnish accurate information to those who depend on such reports.

[Fernandes] You are a native of Minas and as such, at least in theory, would have the legendary patience of the "mineiros." Yet you got angry with the British section of Amnesty International. There is, evidently, misinformation or even bad faith, as you say. But is what goes on, for example, in the police precincts, in the jails, and in the streets of Brazil not also evident?

[Rezek] We know about all that. I have taken the trouble to make contact with all the sources of information, although it is not part of my bailiwick, but in that case I would channel to the minister of justice whatever might come into my hands in the way of accusations, especially from abroad. Something specific, with names, times, circumstances, not abstract things. And Amnesty International has known this since early this year. It had evidence that was more than clear, from the president himself, of the desire to open the doors to any location, any institution, to see whether the law is being observed. And we made this offer with no bitterness regarding the past, because we know that, from time to time, Amnesty has exaggerated, and we also know that some things happened in our country that were in no way exemplary, and that the government tried to conceal them, or not to punish them.

[Fernandes] And what happened—a return to the bitterness of the past?

[Rezek] In August, without the knowledge of the headquarters of the secretariat of Amnesty—although it also operates around there—the British section produced a paid advertisement, obviously vicious, under the headline "Brazil has figured out how to get its children off the streets: by killing them." But the text contains no accusation against any authority or police force.

[Fernandes] But there could very well be. We know, Mr. Minister, that in Brazil cases like this are multiplying—there are more of them every day.

[Rezek] Of course there could be, but I would imagine that if the British section had specific data they would let us know. No, the intent of the advertisement was to arouse the British public, and what was the purpose? To bring in checks, to get contributions. Amnesty lives on donations. It was to generate contributions—it says so at the end: contribute, send us your check, here is the account number...

[Fernandes] So they were selling the misery and degeneration of Brazil...

[Rezek] To supply funds to an institution is a worthy cause if it—let us believe it in good faith—pursues a purpose that we all applaud. But that was not what the British section did—instead it was an awfully low blow.

[Fernandes] And what was your reaction?

[Rezek] We communicated, not with the British section, but with the secretary-general, Yan Martin. We used tough terms, but we were cool-headed. We discarded the idea of also resorting to paid advertisements, because that would cost us enough to support some needy children for several months. So we sent the letter, and immediately received a very proper letter, addressed to President Collor, from Secretary General Martin, expressing regret about what had happened, about the misinformation in the British section.

[Fernandes] Do you not find this job of yours too arduous? You have the Yanomami issue, the suicide of the Kaiowa in Mato Grosso—and the violence in Rio de Janeiro, in Sao Paulo, and in the streets of this country. Is your mission tough to handle?

[Rezek] I think that many years have passed since a minister of foreign affairs has had an assignment that was as pleasant, although it is still difficult. Because I have a firm idea of what our flag stands for, what the objective of the government is in this whole field, and I know what it wants to do, provided it has the means to act.

[Fernandes] Incidentally, how are things going on the environmental issue? There will be a conference here in 1992. What do you say when this subject comes up in talks outside Brazil?

[Rezek] That there is a rapid decline, for example, in the areas being burned in northern Brazil. Professor Lutzenberger talked about this at the last Cabinet meeting. We are not approaching zero yet, rather we are making progress. In the eyes of the rest of the population, the people responsible for those kinds of practices are seen today as criminals, and that is what they are.

Chile

Political Headquarters, Mormon Church Attacked

PY0312203690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] A robbery and terrorist attacks have taken place against the headquarters of political parties and a Mormon church during the past few hours. Carabineros managed to frustrate one of these attacks.

Five youths armed with revolvers burst into the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] headquarters at 7543 Americo Vespucio Street, La Florida District. After overpowering several people, the terrorists caused damage and painted slogans for the Lautaro terrorist group. After writing Death to Jaime Guzman [UDI senator], the individuals sprinkled the building with gasoline, but immediate intervention by Carabineros prevented a fire. The terrorists managed to flee.

A bomb caused considerable damage to the Renewal Party headquarters at 1134 (Lazo) Avenue in San Miguel District.

The same individuals reportedly hurled a bomb at the Mormon church at 250 (Munoz Gamel) in Conchali District, seriously damaging the windows.

Aylwin on Argentina, Kennedy Amendment

PY0312210790 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin has condemned the military revolt taking place in Argentina. He briefly referred to the issue after dedicating a sulphuric acid and oxygen plant at the refinery and smelting plant in Ventanas.

[Begin Aylwin recording] Look, I am a democrat and I believe that the.... [changes thought] I believe in the value and efficiency of democratic institutions. I believe that anything that hinders their functioning or that seeks to disregard the nation's will and disturb the normal development of democracy through the use of force deserves strong condemnation. [end recording]

The president said that he sees no reason to expect that the same thing could happen in Chile.

The president also commented on the lifting of the Kennedy Amendment, noting that it was an obstacle to Chilean-U.S. relations. He said that this restriction had strongly affected normal activities in our contry, especially the supply of equipment to the Armed Forces and the relations between the Armed Forces and the United States.

But since negative situations always have a positive side, some people have said that the Kennedy Amendment restrictions forced the Chilean Armed Forces to use their talents to replace with locally-made technology and production what they could not buy, the president said. He added that this has undoubtedly reduced the negative impact of the restrictions. Beyond all doubt, he went on, the continuation of the restrictions was not only unjustified but remained an obstacle to the good relations between Chile and the United States.

Finance Minister Views Integration

PY0412103190 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley has reported that in his capacity as president of the World Bank and IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] Development Committee, he will propose to these financial organizations the creation of an international fund to promote development and growth in Latin American countries. The finance minister explained that this fund would be financed by contributions from multinational financial organizations and developed countries.

This was one initiative proposed to the meeting of economic officials of nine Latin American countries held this past weekend at a seaside resort in Chile's central zone.

[Begin Foxley recording] In the case of Latin America, it is absolutely empty. No financial mechanism yet exists for the following three goals: investment, industrial readjustment, and support to regions and to social forces, which is essential in a process of economic integration. We are going to propose—and I am going to propose for the agenda of the Development Committee of the World Bank and IDB—that this initiative for the creation of a multilateral fund to strengthen the integration process be considered by this Development Committee and proposed to the World Bank, and especially also to the IMF.

The IDB president has expressed instant interest in this idea and will study it within the framework of his institution. [end recording]

Foxley added that the fund would be in keeping with other funds designed to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises in the region. The fund would have more than than $1.5 billion in capital. He said that this matter is in line with Bush's Initiative for the Americas and that the resources would come from the EEC, Japan, and the United States.

He added that the elimination of the Kennedy Amendment will greatly benefit Chile's economic and political sectors and will also contribute to the reestablishment of normal relations between Chilean and U.S. Armed Forces.

PDC Scores Court for Lifting Castro Indictment

PY0312110390 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Gutemberg Martinez, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party, said today that the Supreme Court continues to give the impression that it is living in the past.

This is how Martinez reacted to the Supreme Court decision to lift the indictment on Captain Patricio Castro, retired, a former member of the CNI [National Intelligence Center], in the homicide case of businessman Aurelio Sichel.

Martinez expressed concern over the way in which the Supreme Court is fulfilling its role of judicial power. He added that the country is undergoing a transition from dictatorship to democracy, and that this process must be reflected in all institutions. [passage omitted]

Martinez pointed out that it is the duty of political parties and congressmen to study the situation of the judicial power. He reiterated the need to reform Chilean justice and that this type of behavior confirms the need for reform.

Colombia

Official Calls Bush Visit Start of 'New Era'

PA0312030090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2243 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Bogota, 2 December (DPA)—U.S. President George Bush's six-day trip to five Latin American countries, which will begin tomorrow, "opens a new era in the relations of the region with the White House," Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo has said. The U.S. president will visit Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, and Venezuela to discuss with his counteparts and businessmen the foreign debt, trade, and other economic matters.

"President Bush's visit and agenda point to the end of the painful chapter when all U.S. authorities did was propose the defeat of communism and forget about our peoples' needs," Jaramillo noted, after stressing that "new relations (between Washington and Latin America) are based on mutual respect."

The Colombian foreign minister said that the government of liberal Cesar Gaviria "is promoting these direct meetings (by Bush) with his Latin American neighbors and expects significant progress on topics that are of the utmost importance to us, such as commercial relations."

Minister Discusses UN Resolution on Iraq

PA3011151990 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1238 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Luis Jaramillo in New York by unidentified station announcer—live]

[Summary From Poor Reception] [Announcer] Could you explain our country's stand on the UN Security Council resolution on the use of force against Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait?

[Jaramillo] In the first place, Colombia cannot approve the use of violence because this goes against international law. "We have rejected the use of force as a means to solve territorial disputes, as well as a means to reject aggression." On the other hand, by approving the use of necessary means, "we said it is necessary that all avenues to peace be explored."

[Announcer] What is the Security Council planning to do within the next 45 days?

[Jaramillo] Peace efforts will be intensified. The council will seek to bring up the issue for negotiations. This cannot occur if there is no possibility for dialogue, and therefore "we must make use of all available means." We must do everything possible to attain peace. "In other words, we must convince Saddam Husayn." We must strive to convince him "that it is necessary for him to abandon the occupied territories." He must do this "to put an end to the massacre of the Kuwaiti people, who are being trampled on and whose rights are being violated." If all diplomatic means fail, "all necessary means will have to be used to reestablish order."

[Announcer] Concerning the voting at the Security Council, it is being said that pressure should be exerted on Iraq, and not only with the use of force. It is said that Iraq should be told the advantages of pulling out of Kuwait. What are the benefits for Iraq if it complies with the UN resolution?

[Jaramillo] "There cannot be any advantages from the invasion and disruption of international law and order. In other words, there is no way one can compensate for the Iraqi aggression. Colombia believes that for Iraq to withdraw, it must have clearly determined what will happen once it withdraws.

"If Iraq merely pulls out of Kuwait, it has not solved all of its territorial disputes, and it does not have a system for solving them. Iraq also has not resolved the economic problems that led to the invasion, and it does not have a system for solving them. In addition, Iraq has the problem of security and instability in the Gulf that must be resolved. If the armies are left confronting each other, we will eventually have a conflict. Then there are the economic sanctions and the blockade. It must be clearly established that if Iraq pulls out of Kuwait, the economic sanctions and the blockade must come to an end. Otherwise, why would Iraq withdraw?"

This is why "Colombia insists that it must be specified what will happen once the UN resolution is implemented. How will the resolution develop? If the resolution does not develop, there will not be a solution. Colombia will continue insisting on this today, with the support of a considerable number of countries who are Security Council members and nonmembers."

[Announcer] "Thank you, Minister Jaramillo, for speaking with us from New York. Have a nice day."

[Jaramillo] "Thank you."

EPL Says No Conditions for Government Meeting

PA0212031690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0109 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] The peace process with the EPL [People's Liberation Army] suffered a severe setback today when a statement released by this subversive group was disclosed in Bogota saying that they will not surrender their weapons before the constituent assembly and that they have canceled the meeting with the government scheduled to be held on 3 December.

According to the EPL negotiation commission members, the meeting slated for 3 December has been suspended because the proper conditions for it do not exist and because the government must assess the progress of the peace process conducted with the EPL thus far. In addition, the guerrilla movement, which thinks the meeting should be held after the 9 December elections, asked for a new debate with those who signed the political pact, which gave rise to the national accord to convene the constituent assembly.

[Begin recording] [Negotiation commission member Jaime Fajardo] We propose to outline a schedule in agreement with the government. This schedule would include the current demobilization process, participation in the constituent assembly, debate concerning the new political accord, and the surrender of our weapons.

[Negotiation commission member Anibal Palacios] We cannot tell the country a lie by saying the EPL will surrender its weapons before 5 February [date as heard]. This is impossible. We want to tell the country that we are willing, but that we (?should discuss) a schedule first. [end recording]

In addition to requesting a return to civilian life, as well as a pardon and international supervision, the EPL asserted that high-level consultations with the government are necessary—in other words, with the president of the Republic or the government minister.

[Begin recording] [Palacios] The time has arrived when things that cannot be settled by the advisers must be settled by the corresponding ministries. Personally, I think that the government ministry bears a great responsibility in the peace process. [end recording]

The guerrilla organization, in addition to reporting that it would not surrender its weapons to the Colombian Government, also reported that it would return weapons taken from the armies of Venezuela and Ecuador.

EPL Discusses Conditions for Talks

PA0212211490 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1247 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Telephone interview with Anibal Palacios, spokesman for the Popular Liberation Army, EPL, by unidentified reporter—live]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] At this time we have a special guest: Anibal Palacios, a spokesman for the EPL. This guerrilla group recently announced that it will not attend a meeting with the government scheduled for 3 December. Meanwhile, an EPL sector on one of its fronts located in Santander Department announced that it will deliver weapons to the Venezuelan Government, and another group in the southern part of the country has said it will deliver weapons to the Ecuadoran Army.

Good morning. We welcome Anibal Palacios to our program. What is the situation of the meeting scheduled for tomorrow?

[Palacios] Good morning. We clearly stated our position yesterday. I believe that we must be optimistic when analyzing the announcement we made. We have simply requested the postponement of a meeting scheduled for tomorrow so that the national government, specifically the president of the Republic, participates more actively in what we have called the definition of the course of the negotiation process with the EPL in its final stage. We have adopted this position so that we do not repeat a meeting that surely will not produce the results the country expects.

[Reporter] How are your relations with the Advisory Board for Peace Issues?

[Palacios] We have been working intensively with Jesus Bejarano and with the other advisers in the Advisory Board during this period. We have reached a point in the negotiations, however, in which we believe that, in view of the points to be defined and discussed, the government should have a broader participation in the negotiating commission. For example, we have repeatedly requested the participation of the Government Ministry in this process. We believe that at this time the president of the Republic should evaluate the negotiation process with the EPL and define a clear position for the national government, specifically the president of the Republic, regarding the participation that the EPL would have in the National Constituent Assembly. This evaluation should interpret the political agreement that permits the participation of a rebel movement such as the EPL, which is currently engaged in a peace process directed by the government.

[Reporter] There have been differences of opinion with the Advisory Board for Peace Issues that have prevented agreements on some points. What are those differences?

[Palacios] As I said before, we have worked together with the Advisory Board; however, we believe that today there are points that require the participation of a broader commission from the national government. For example, the president of the Republic is authorized—or has the power—to decide on the extent of the participation of a rebel group that is currently engaged in a peace process. That is the first point.

Second, we have been saying—and this was ratified in our party's 13th Congress—that the peace process is closely linked to the National Constituent Assembly. The constituent assembly is a reality. Next Sunday we will be electing the 70 representatives who will develop the constitutional amendments. We have stressed that the constituent assembly is the best framework for a great political and social pact for peace. In that regard, the government must necessarily encourage a great national pact within the assembly through proposals to that effect.

Third, we have been demanding supervision. This is not new. The country is aware that within his peace policy the president of the Republic has voiced his willingness—even to other guerrilla groups that have not joined the peace process—to permit the supervision of the process. That has been one of our demands.

Then there is an aspect concerning pardons. We all know that pardons are also the result of an agreement with the government. This is mainly in the hands of the government minister and the national government.

These are some fundamental aspects, along with the reincorporation of EPL guerrillas into civilian life. In that regard, I would like to stress one point. The EPL is a guerrilla movement that began over 25 years ago. Some guerrillas joined the movement back in the days of the Liberal Party. [sentence as heard] Therefore, we cannot make hasty decisions. As we said yesterday, we would be irresponsible if we announce to the nation that the EPL will demobilize on 5 February.

This is a process. In that regard, we have contacted the Pedagogic University, as well as various educational centers here in Bogota, such as the University of Los Andes, the National University, FINEP [expansion unknown], and Forum for Colombia. In other words, we have contacted various centers that are analyzing the situation to draft a reincorporation program that will make it possible to end the process—the laying down of weapons—in a relatively short time and in an orderly and responsible way.

[Reporter] What conditions must be present for you to deliver your weapons?

[Palacios] The conditions for the delivery of weapons are part of an overall agreement that must include the aspects I just mentioned. That is why we feel that those agreements must be reached with top government authorities. Last week during a meeting of the national directorate, we decided to present a timetable to the government [words indistinct] so that the meeting at which all those topics and points are discussed could receive the highest attention of the president of the Republic. We are willing to continue the talks. If it is too much of a problem, because the entire country is busy with the 9 December elections, we believe that after 9 December would be a good time to meet.

[Reporter] Another important topic has to do with the EPL's presence in the constituent assembly. Has no agreement been reached regarding the number of EPL members who will participate in the constituent assembly?

[Palacios] No, and in fact that caused some frustration during the last meeting at [words indistinct]. That was one of the points on which no agreement was reached. Based on our contacts with the Advisory Board for Peace Issues during the past week, apparently the conditions were not right and the climate was not the best to define the EPL's participation in the constituent assembly this week.

Therefore, unless the government clearly defines it position—in other words, unless the government admits that we are in a peace process directed by the government as stipulated in the political agreement and Decree 19-26—and as long as the government's position is not clear, we see no reason to speed up the meeting and have it end without any agreement.

In that regard, we condition this meeting with the government, which we consider very important, not only to discussing the problem of regarding our participation in the constituent assembly, but the other points as well. If next week the government adopts a clearer position and determines the number of EPL representatives to the constituent assembly, however, we would be willing to return to the negotiation table whenever the government decides.

[Reporter] Are the negotiations at a stalemate now?

[Palacios] No. There are three commissions that have been working. We have been in constant contact with officials from the Advisory Board, the Government Ministry, the Human Rights Advisory Board, the Attorney General's Office, and the National Rehabilitation Plan. Those officials are part of the three commissions agreed to by the government.

The negotiations have reached a decisive phase. We are giving this moment all the attention it deserves. We believe that the government should do the same as a great contribution to the country's peace efforts. It did so with the M-19 [19 April Movement]. We do not understand why the presidency does not pay more attention to a guerrilla movement that is firmly committed to peace. We hope to receive more attention within the framework of President Gaviria's peace policy. We also hope that the government will adopt a clearer position regarding these negotiations that we hope will end successfully within the framework of the National Constituent Assembly, as we have publicly stated.

[Reporter] Does this mean that if President Cesar Gaviria does not assign this matter to Government Minister Julio Cesar Sanchez or if he does not intervene as you proposed, the process will die and everything will be over?

[Palacios] No, not at all. What we are demanding is that the government improve the methods for negotiation.

I would like to give you an example of something the country should know. For example, at this time Colombians do not know how much the government has budgeted for peace. Peace requires all the necessary efforts. Many of the problems that emerged in the beginning, logistical problems that fortunately, for the most part, have been solved, had to do with budget problems. Therefore, peace is not merely a problem for the advisors. We have said that peace is also a problem that concerns the Government Ministry, because of the many factors involved. Peace is also a budgetary problem. Finance Minister Hommes should also be involved.

Although it is not a topic right now, we believe that all Colombians, not just advisors, should be included. We have said before that the problem of reincorporation into society is not just a problem for the EPL and the government. [passage omitted]

Town Offers To Serve as Prison for Traffickers

PA0112025190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2302 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Bogota, 30 Nov (DPA)—The Colombian city of Envigado, located 250 km northwest of Bogota, today offered to serve as the place of imprisonment for the 300 drug traffickers who might turn themselves in to the authorities, thereby taking advantage of a decree in which the government pledges not to extradite them and to reduce their prison terms.

The proposal was presented in a letter that the mayor of Envigado, Jose Mario Rodriguez, addressed to Minister of Justice Jaime Giraldo Angel. The letter expresses the town's desire "to contribute to peace and reconciliation in Colombia."

Envigado, also located 10 km south of Medellin, is regarded as the "operations center" of the drug and terrorist cartel led by Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the chief leader of the Extraditables, which is the armed branch of the drug traffickers.

The Extraditables have admitted that they may surrender if the government of President Cesar Gaviria guarantees compliance with the decree pledging that they will not be extradited to the United States and that their prison sentences will be reduced by as much as half the time stipulated by law.

The drug traffickers also demanded to be kept in a single maximum-security prison where they would be protected by the Army, Navy, and the police to prevent attempts on their lives.

According to reports, the government would buy a monastery owned by the Dominican Order in Chiquinquira, 110 km north of Bogota.

Minister Giraldo, however, pointed out that the government, in approximately three months, will complete the construction of "special jails" to imprison the drug traffickers.

Minister on Judges, Prison

PA0212193690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1807 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo Angel has made two important announcements: Judges will not be located in a special fortified bunker, and the prison for the Extraditables who accept the decree offer could be located at Envigado.

The specialized judges will work out of the courts and not at a bunker as originally planned. The government had announced the construction of a bunker for these judges' chambers. Afterwards, it was suggested that the judges could work from military garrisons; however, the government has now decided that the judges will work out of the courts. The Justice Ministry's rotational fund has already begun preparing the chambers. These offices will have all the necessary security facilities and will be located at special places. The specialized judges will work in Bogota and have jurisdiction throughout Colombia.

[Begin Giraldo recording] The idea is to isolate special areas within the regular courts for the exclusive use of public order judges. These chambers are being outfitted with modern equipment to guarantee secure access and a secure work environment. [end recording]

The justice minister announced that the prison will be ready in three months for those people who accept Decree 2047, which grants special privileges to those who turn themselves in and report their crimes.

Suspected Trafficker Surrenders To Authorities

PA0412034590 Paris AFP in Spanish 0231 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Manizales, Colombia, 3 Dec (AFP)—It has been officially reported that a suspected drug trafficker, who is sought by a U.S. court, turned himself in today to a judge in this coffee-growing city in western Colombia, taking advantage of a decree that establishes a reduction in sentence and nonextradition.

He is cattleman Gonzalo Mejia Sanin, 40 years old, who, accompanied by several lawyers, appeared before special Judge Oscar Alzate, who immediately sent him to the local jail under special security measures.

He is the third suspected drug trafficker who has taken advantage of the decree issued by the government of President Cesar Gaviria on 5 September to facilitate the surrender of the drug traffickers.

Two other men, not considered to be big catches in the drug cartels, turned themselves in a few days ago in Bogota and Pereira.

The decree establishes reductions of up to one-third of the sentences for those who confess to at least one of the crimes for which they are charged, and guarantees they will be tried in Colombia and, above all, that they will not be extradited.

Former Hostage Denies ELN Role in Kidnapping

PA3011151590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2205 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Bogota, 26 Nov (EFE)—Juan Vitta, editor of Colombian television program "As Of Today" who was released today by the Extraditables—the armed wing of the Medellin Cartel—has confirmed that the Army of National Liberation (ELN) was not involved in the kidnapping of nine journalists. Vitta, 50, is the first of a group of kidnapped journalists to be released. The ELN was not involved in our kidnapping, the journalist stated in a conversation with colleagues in Medellin, where he was released.

Vitta's captors set him free near the home of former Medellin mayor Juan Gomez Martinez, who was asked by the relatives of the captive journalists to mediate their release. The Extraditables had announced three hours earlier in a communique dated 23 November, which sent to different news media, that he would be released soon because of health problems that required medical attention. The journalist was kidnapped on 30 August along with the program's editor Diana Turbay (daughter of former President Julio Cesar Turbay), two other journalists, and two Cription Television cameramen. The journalists had contacted alleged ELN members in Bogota to do an interview with the top leaders of that Marxist guerrilla group. Days later, however, the ELN denied it had authorized those reports and condemned the kidnapping. In his first remarks, Vitta disclosed that his captors separated the group the day they were kidnapped. On 19 September, the Extraditables kidnapped Bogota daily EL TIEMPO editor Francisco Santos, and, on 7 November, they kidnapped Maruja Pachon and Beatriz Guerrero, reporters for the state-run Cinema Financial Fund [Focine]. The released journalist does not know the whereabouts of the EL TIEMPO editor and the Focine reporters. After thanking Colombian journalists for their solidarity throughout his 86 days of captivity, Vitta expressed confidence that his other kidnapped colleagues would soon return.

Journalist Association President Missing

PA3011145690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1750 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] There is no end to the violence against Colombian journalists, and consequently the violence against the right of all you viewers to be well-informed. So far, nobody knows anything about the fate of journalist Alejandro Jaramillo Barboza, who disappeared last Friday, 23 November, in the city of Cali.

Jaramillo, president of the Association of Colombian Journalists, had recently sent a letter to the Notables in which he revealed details about a conversation between Medellin Cartel lawyer Guido Parra and drug trafficker Pablo Escobar.

Today the Association of Colombian Journalists disavowed Jaramillo's message to the Notables, adding that he had acted on his own.

[Begin recording of Robinson Rada, secretary general of the Association of Colombian Journalists] We do not share in the philosophy of the letter sent by Jaramillo to the Notables. Whether the contents of this letter are true or not, the Association of Colombian Journalists, and I am officially speaking on its behalf, totally disavows the statements made by Alejandro Jaramillo. Our association does not have these objectives. [end recording]

Jaramillo, who is 57 years old, was director of EL CALENO newspaper. A little over six years ago, he survived an attack after he denounced administrative and other irregularities in Cali.

[In a similar report on Jaramillo's reported disappearance, Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 29 November adds the following, citing the 29 November edition of the Bogota newspaper EL ESPECTADOR: "The tape of a conversation between Pablo Escobar and Guido Parra proves that the Extraditables are not looking for peace, but rather for room to breathe to prepare the launching of 'more cruel actions against Colombian society.' In the tape Escobar says: 'As long as they do not take our airstrips or the cocaine, the government will not eliminate us, because we still have buried gold and many dollars with which to continue the war against the security forces."]

Kidnapped Journalist Writes Family, Gaviria

*PA0112035290 Bogota Inravision Television
Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Nov 90*

[Report by Amparo Ponton]

[Text] We have heard nothing about journalist Francisco Santos since his kidnapping on 19 September. Whenever the Extraditables mention the journalists they are holding, they refer to the group kidnapped with Diana Turbay or to Maruja Pachon and Beatriz Villamizar. Not a word has been said about Francisco Santos.

At 2100 yesterday Mr. Hernando Santos, director of the newspaper EL TIEMPO, received the first sign that his son Francisco is alive. In a tape-recorded message, Francisco begins by reading the headlines of EL TIEMPO's 23 November issue. This proves that the recording is recent.

Then he reads two messages. The first is addressed to his wife Maria Victoria and to Mr. Hernando Santos. In the message, he says that he is in good health, that conditions could not be better, and that he hopes to be back home before 24 December. The other message is addressed to President Gaviria:

[Begin Fransisco Santos recording] Mr. President: The national press has shown that it is willing to assume more than its fair share for the sake of Colombian democracy. Unfortunately, those who are holding the media hostage today wrongly believe that the responsibility of pressuring the government to act in one way or another lies with the media. The communication channels between the government and the media are limited because of our respective duties, but I cannot and should not ask you to disregard the law and Constitution that you swore to defend on 7 August.

In Colombia, however, the Constitution and reality are moving in different directions. Proof of this is that in less than three months we will have a constituent assembly. I am agonizing over this message because of the free and independent spirit that characterizes me. Nevertheless, I believe that any effort that you might make to obtain the freedom of the journalists—that is, I repeat, without violating the law and constitutional provisions—is beneficial not only for the country but for the freedom of the press, which is being held hostage. This is absolutely necessary now more than ever before.

Attentively yours.

[Signed] Francisco Santos Calderon [end recording]

This message, besides presenting the solution to the situation of the kidnapped journalists, reveals the possibility that Francisco Santos Calderon will be the next journalist released by the Extraditables.

Self-Defense Groups Surrender Weapons in Cordoba

*PA0212221390 Bogota Inravision Television
Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Nov 90*

[Text] Within what we can call a unilateral peace process, Fidel Castano, also known as "Rambo," today turned in some weapons at place known as (Alto Sinu).

The self-defense movements of Cordoba and Choco Departments and the region of Uraba in Antioquia Department, controlled by Fidel Castano, turned in approximately 300 weapons and committed themselves to completely demobilizing.

This movement, which has operated for more than 10 years, at least here in Cordoba Department, began demobilizing over four months ago, basically in response to the peace process currently under way between the government and the Popular Liberation Army [EPL].

In an ironic twist, Andres Lopez Meza, leader of the Democratic Alliance M-19 [19 April Movement], received the weapons. Less than a year ago, Lopez Meza was the victim of an attack by members of the group headed by Castano. Among other weapons, Lopez Meza received 81 AR-15 rifles, three AUG-56 rifles, two Galil rifles, two Uzi submachine guns, various rockets, several 12-caliber Italian shotguns, and some grenades.

These weapons were finally turned over to Cordoba Department's Governor Jorge Ramon Elias (Nader), who warned that the government has not rewarded Castano for turning in the arsenal of weapons.

Turning in the weapons is the second step in the peace process to take place without government intervention in the past 48 hours.

Yesterday, 1,153 hectares of land were turned over to 250 families who had been displaced by violence. This is the first phase of a program aimed at giving away 10,000 hectares from various estates belonging to Castano. This land program will continue for one year. The beneficiaries will have the right to request credits from an 800 million-peso fund. This program is administered by the Cordoba Foundation for Peace, a group made up of representatives of Fidel Castano and his opposition forces, such as the M-19 and the People's Front.

It appears, however, that Castano is not expecting anything from all of this.

[Begin Lopez Meza recording] Castano and his group said that they are not expecting any rewards from the government and that they simply want to contribute toward attaining peace in Cordoba Department. Their legal status will have to be defined by the authorities and judges of the Republic. [end recording]

Fidel Castano will be left with 500 hectares of land and not a single weapon. Until recently, Castano had been the cruelest paramilitary leader in Colombia.

* Navarro Presents Views on Assembly Issues

91SM0082A Bogota SEMANA in Spanish
30 Oct 90 pp 30-32

[Interview with Constituent Assembly candidate and former Health Minister Antonio Navarro Wolf, by Maria Elvira Samper; date and place not given]

[Excerpts]

[Samper] The polls show that you are going to be one of the major figures in the Constituent Assembly. Why don't we try to define some specific changes you would promote or support? Let's start with Congress.

[Navarro] Enormous changes need to be made in Congress. First of all, in its membership, and second, in its functions.

[Samper] Would you keep the two chambers?

[Navarro] That's a side issue, though I do believe we need to reduce the number of members of Congress and limit the number of times they can be reelected.

[Samper] How many times?

[Navarro] I don't know, but in any case, I don't think we should have careers that last for 30 years and create departmental dynasties.

[Samper] Would you change the way in which members of Congress are elected?

[Navarro] Yes. I like the concept of uninominal representation for both majorities and minorities. In other words, let each member of Congress have a more direct relation with his voters, so he will be answerable to them.

[Samper] And what about the duties of Congress? What would you change there?

[Navarro] Rather than changing, we need to restore to Congress the functions it has lost. Members of Congress only think about holding on to their seats and about aid. That should not be the function of Congress. Today politicians are only intermediaries between the people and the authorities.

[Samper] That concept doesn't seem very pejorative, since a member of Congress by definition has to be an intermediary between the people and the authorities.

[Navarro] But a politician has to be much more than that. In Colombia we should move away from the presidential system to a semiparliamentary system, in which the exercise of power is shared and democratized.

[Samper] Then do you support reducing the current power of the Executive?

[Navarro] Yes, we need to create a system of joint consultation and working together. Today the Executive has a monopoly on planning and the budget, prepared by staff in National Planning and the Ministry of Finance. Congress needs to participate in this process, and it should take the initiative on spending. The Corpes [expansion unknown] are a good beginning, and may provide an ideal scenario so that planning will come from the bottom to the top, and not from the top to the top, which is the way it works now.

[Samper] In practice, you are talking about undoing the 1968 reform, in which the major achievement of former President Carlos Lleras was to restore the Executive's initiative over spending. The country had become unmanageable, and was being looted by members of Congress crowding and shoving at the trough to be sure they got more than their share.

[Navarro] But you don't have to go to from one extreme to the other. We need to work together and find ways to do this.

[Samper] What else would you do with Congress?

[Navarro] Give it the power of a no-confidence motion so the members can get rid of a minister if he is not performing his duties.

[Samper] Except for England, parliamentary systems like the ones you are proposing have been a disaster. The Weimar Republic ended up with Hitler; in France, after the Third and Fourth Republic they had to turn to de Gaulle. In Italy, no government lasts a year. Do you think that is worth imitating?

[Navarro] In any case, it seems better to me than the current bipartisan system, which has done nothing except eliminate democratic freedoms. We have to go to a multiparty system, in which each party has clear ideas and represents specific views.

[Samper] Giving names of specific countries, which political systems do you most admire?

[Navarro] Spain and Canada.

[Samper] I want you to answer my questions on three points. Do you support or oppose the presidental reelection?

[Navarro] I oppose it; I always have.

[Samper] Do you believe in the government-opposition framework, or do you think it is better for the party which wins the elections to allow other political groups to participate in the government?

[Navarro] I believe governments must be national; there is no other way to govern a country.

[Samper] What is your position regarding the role of the Armed Forces?

[Navarro] The Berlin Wall has fallen in Europe, but not in the minds of the Colombian military. They still have a Cold War mentality even though the Cold War has ended. They are hunting for communists where there aren't any, and saying they are receiving orders from abroad.

[Samper] That sounds great in theory, but in practice we have Father Perez, a foreigner, blowing up pipelines, and the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] laying ambushes every day in the name of communism. The Army isn't inventing our public order problems.

[Navarro] Okay, the state has to defend itself, I recognize that. Furthermore, the Armed Forces have to regain their monopoly on arms, but military problems must not be handled only by the military.

[Samper] A lot of people will have to be disarmed before the Army can regain a monopoly on arms. How do you think that can be done?

[Navarro] By persuading some people, as they did with us; with others, by taking away their permits; and with the rest, in any way possible. Today there are 700,000 military weapons with permits in the hands of civilians, who, in an internal war situation, use these weapons for political purposes. The state has to make itself respected.

[Samper] That seems ironic coming from you. The major reason why the state isn't respected is because people feel it can be blackmailed through violence. And M-19 was the group that invented this method of operation. First of all, with the kidnapping of Jose Raquel Mercado who was killed when the government did not give in to its demands; and later, with the kidnapping of Hugo Ferreira who was released after concessions were made. Not to mention the release of Alvaro Gomez, for which you, as minister, were responsible. Do you really think M- 19 has sufficient moral authority to talk about respecting the state?

[Navarro] The United States invented the atom bomb and used it. History has judged that action in accordance with the circumstances under which this action was carried out. This doesn't mean that the United States could do the same thing now.

[Samper] Let's not talk in metaphors. The fact is that because of the kidnapping strategy, M-19 received enormous dividends at the expense of institutional legitimacy. And so now the "extraditables" are doing the same thing: kidnapping innocent people to get the law changed. In other words, we are where we are because of people who are imitating practices which you invented. Isn't it paradoxical that now you are heading a slate for the Constituent Assembly, which is trying to resolve some of the problems for which your movement is largely responsible?

[Navarro] I don't want to defend or justify what we did, but I think that when we did them, those things had a purpose and a justification. I don't believe that drug trafficking today can be compared with what M-19 did at that time. The circumstances are different, the reasons are different. What we wanted was to open up a space for peace for Colombia, which was locked into a spiral of violence.

[Samper] Speaking of drug trafficking, you have always advocated political negotiations. Would you bring that point of view to the Constituent Assembly?

[Navarro] That has several aspects. For example, on the subject of extradition, which is going to be on the agenda of the Constituent Assembly whether we like or it or not, our position is already known: We believe there should be an effective and capable system of justice, so that Colombians can be tried in Colombia.

[Samper] But the problem doesn't lie so much in extradition as in the special political treatment demanded by drug terrorists.

[Navarro] Political negotiations are already going on. The government's measures on extradition and the reduction of penalties are a political treatment which I fully support. This is how it can be improved, and everything that is done in this way may help to smooth out difficulties for the Constituent Assembly. I hope this issue will be resolved outside the Assembly and not have to go that far.

[Samper] If it does go to the Constituent Assembly, do you reject the possibility of a pardon?

[Navarro] I don't reject anything. I operate within the realm of reality and according to what is best for the nation. But I want to make one point clear: Drug trafficking and the guerrilla movement are different phenomena, and they have to be treated differently, even though it is recognized that they must be handled politically.

[Samper] Moving on to another subject, earlier you mentioned the fall of the Berlin Wall. That is related to the failure of a system which was supposed to have been the reason why you went into the mountains...

[Navarro] What fell was communism and M-19 was never a communist movement. We went into the mountains not to impose communism, but rather to open up a democratic space.

[Samper] Let me see if I understand this. Then you like capitalism?

[Navarro] Democratic capitalism.

[Samper] And what does that mean?

[Navarro] It means that I want Colombia to be a country of property owners. I want competition, but I don't like excesses.

[Samper] What are excesses?

[Navarro] Monopolies.

[Samper] Be more specific.

[Navarro] The Santo Domingo Group and beer; that's an example of a monopoly.

[Samper] But more in terms of control than ownership. For Bavaria is a company with many stockholders...

[Navarro] What I mean by a monopoly isn't just that one person or a group has everything, rather that it carries decisive weight in an area which allows it to distort things. And I don't believe in either private monopolies or state monopolies.

[Samper] It's easy to be a demagogue on that subject. But if you do respect private property, why criticize people who win by playing according to the rules of the system?

[Navarro] Because the rules of the system can be improved upon, by democratizing ownership of property and by stimulating competition.

[Samper] How?

[Navarro] Property should not be taken away from anyone by force. I think there are many instruments. We might adopt as a model, the antitrust laws of the United States and the European Economic Community. The size of economic conglomerates should be limited and their ownership should be democratized. The state must be capable of creating and stimulating competition when there is no competition. The size of our market also needs to be changed, as it is very small; we need to seek regional integration mechanisms. Specifically, I believe that right now we need to accelerate the integration process with Venezuela. Then we could expand our markets.

[Samper] You say you do not support expropriation, but that property needs to be democratized. How would you democratize it?

[Navarro] By having the government encourage the workers' participation in the ownership, management and profits of companies. I belive in joint management. Look at the success of Avensa, the Venezuelan airline which competes with Viasa. It was practically bankrupt, and now its workers own 33 percent of its stock.

[Samper] I don't see many signs here of businessmen being willing to turn over part of the ownership of shares in their companies to the workers. To my knowledge, aside from some exceptional cases, there is no country where this sort of property ownership is widespread. And it doesn't fit with today's ideology, in which privatization is the current fashion.

[Navarro] The state has to set the example. It is precisely through privatization that the state can begin to promote having workers in state enteprises become stockholders in those companies. It should also create mechanisms and incentives for private companies to do the same thing.

[Samper] The workers' paradise...

[Navarro] No, not at all. It isn't as clear-cut an issue as it seems. Sometimes the workers would rather dig themselves in deeper in order to defend collective bargaining. Not only businessmen, but the union movement in Colombia has become paralyzed. And how many workers do you think would be ready to trade their benefits and vacation for stock in a company, with all the risks that this would entail?

[Samper] One last question. With all these theories, how many Constituent Assembly seats do you think you will win?

[Navarro] Not less than 15.

Ecuador

* Government Dialogue With Indians at Impasse

* Defense Minister Comments

91SM0076A Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 24 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] Quito—General Jorge Felix, the minister of national defense, has appealed to the common sense of all social sectors within the country, urging them to collaborate in the search for peaceful and realistic solutions which will safeguard national integration and social peace in the country.

The statements and criteria of the minister of national defense concerning the Indian population in Ecuador have been published in MENSAJE, the official organ of the Ministry of Defense and the Ecuadoran Army.

"I believe that there is justification for the demands of the native population and other social groups, but this does not in any way imply that they have a right to take disruptive theses as their basis for creating chaos and endangering the very existence of the state," the minister said.

"The Armed Forces," he added, "must not reduce their analysis of the Indian problem to alleged obedience to foreign slogans, nor to the fact that the leaders have been trained in foreign countries, because we in the military know the native reality first hand, having traveled in all parts of the Ecuadoran territory, and we have shared the situation which all the social sectors are experiencing."

He went on to add that "a significant number of citizens of these origins is serving in the ranks of the military institutions. On the basis of their merits and efforts, they have access under equal conditions to all of the opportunities offered by a military career, without discrimination based on race, or of any other kind."

* Tapuy Comments

91SM0076B Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 11 Oct 90 p 8

[Text] Quito—"The national government is not taking a serious approach to resolving the problems pertaining to the Indian population of the country," the highest leader of the Confederation of Indian Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE), Cristobal Tapuy, has said.

"One of the reasons is the presence of new people at each of the meetings held, which hinders and blocks the agreements reached in the course of other meetings," he added.

He said that both the government sector and the Indian population bring in new people. This was the case with the Federation of Evangelical Indians, which constantly tries to boycott the agreements.

Similarly, new FEDCAP [expansion unknown] and Christian Democracy leaders have been brought in. This happened, for example, in the province of Pastaza, where a negative reaction was recently received from a group of native leaders. "It is not, as the national government has tried to make it seem, that all 140 organizations in the sector expressed disagreement with the arguments the CONAIE has been putting forth within the framework of the meetings."

Tapuy said that this means that more than 85 percent of the Indians in Pastaza were in agreement at the time with the Indian uprising, and they are now in agreement with the CONAIE, he noted.

Third Native Congress

At the same time, Cristobal Tapuy said that the Third Congress of Indian Nationalities in Ecuador will be held this coming December in the city of Guayaquil. Its specific purpose is to renew the board of officers of this organization. Its members will now serve for a term of four years, rather than two, as has been the case to date.

* Ranchers, Clergy Comment

91SM0076C Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 10 Oct 90 p 12

[Article by Raul Sabando]

[Text] Portoviejo—"The government should implement the law and ensure respect for the Constitution, private property, the agrarian reform law, and the agricultural development and promotion law, along with the adoption of measures designed to meet the demands of the Indian population." This statement was made in this city by the president of the Association of Sierra and Oriente Livestock Breeders, Simon Bustamante Cardenas, in reference to the uprising of the Indians in Ecuador.

This leader said that the invasion of the farm properties in the mountain area could lead to a national convulsion. This would result from a shortage of supplies, since this action is hindering the task of planting.

Property Owners Fearful

Bustamante emphasized that the situation is tending to become worse because of the great fear on the part of property owners, who are refraining from planting due to a lack of confidence in the investment, as well as the lack of incentives.

The manager of the association in question, Engineer Ruben Espinoza, said that President Borja is an accomplice and is concealing this situation, since the problem was made known to him last January in a report drafted by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces, which contained important data on the infiltration of guerrilla fighters from Nicaragua and Cuba into Indian organizations.

Government To Blame

"The government is solely responsible for the problem, first of all because its attitude was one of pacification, and second, because it was not able to satisfy the demands of the Indians in time," Espinoza emphasized. At the same time, he said that the government should assume its responsibility and adopt measures as soon as possible to prevent a food crisis and a weakening of democracy.

Integration Demanded

Concerning this problem, the bishop of Portoviejo, Monsignor Jose Mario Ruiz Navas, said that the Indians want and are demanding integration. What they want is the only kind of integration worthy of man, which is integration among individuals who have something to give and something to receive. This process also implies rights and obligations.

The bishop said that thanks to an internal force which persists and to numerous sources of influence, the main one being the Church, the Indians are becoming aware of their identity and will no longer passively accept being regarded as objects.

Native Awakening

He went on to add that the awakening of the Indian people has shaken up the national structures, and only through a process of reorganization which will make their participation possible can we avoid outbreaks of destructive violence.

In conclusion, Monsignor Ruiz emphasized that the best proof of their human values is that they have survived five centuries of failure to have their rights as human individuals recognized, and of being ignored as the most ancient root of Ecuadoran identity.

Paraguay

Ministry Voices Support for Argentine Government

PY0412100490 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television in Spanish 2230 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has released an official communique that says the Paraguayan Government condemns the attempt to subvert institutional order in Argentina. The communique also expresses support for the constitutional government of President Carlos Menem and stresses the Paraguayan Government's respect for democratic institutions and freely elected governments.

The official communique adds that the Paraguayan Government expresses its confidence that a prompt solution to this deplorable event in Argentina will be found and that order and concord will be reestablished in the brotherly Argentine nation.

The Foreign Ministry communique finally says that the Paraguayan Government reaffirms its belief in the consolidation of the democratic processes in Latin America to ensure the people's happiness.

Peru

Communique Notes 'Solidarity' With Argentina

PY0412033290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] In view of the events that occurred early this morning in Buenos Aires, the Peruvian Government, in an official Foreign Ministry communique, expressed its complete solidarity with Argentine democracy and its institutions, headed by President Carlos Saul Menem.

In the communique, the Peruvian Government also called on the Latin American community to express its emphatic rejection of those who pretend to disregard the sovereign will of our peoples and establish dictatorial regimes that no longer have a raison d'etre in a world that is progressing toward democracy and against totalitarianism.

In conclusion, the Peruvian Government expressed its full conviction that the Argentine people will be able to civilly and maturely respond to any antidemocratic adventure.

Marching CITE Workers Teargassed, Arrested

PY3011211390 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Striking CITE [Intersectorial Confederation of Public Employees] workers have again taken to the streets. This time, however, they were only a small group. They were immediately dispersed by national police personnel.

About 100 striking workers have taken to some streets of our capital seeking a series of improvements. As they approached the headquarters of the Central Reserve Bank, near the Abancay Avenue, the police appeared, blocking all their escape routes.

The demonstrators were shouting that the CITE is a combative group when, suddenly, a tear gas canister literally made them disappear. Carrying their banners, the marchers saw that they were in a trap and tried to escape by entering a parking lot.

The policemen went after the protesters who were hiding behind some cars. The policemen then detained them and took them to the nearest police station in a police van.

State Workers Lift Strike

PY0312222990 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Felix Martinez, secretary general of the CITE [Intersectoral Committee of State Workers], has announced the lifting of the indefinite strike that this organization began on 15 November. As of 3 December the few workers who are still on strike will return to work. Martinez also charged that 10,000 public employees are involved in corruption.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Is it true that the CITE will lift the strike as of Monday?

[Martinez] Yes. Yesterday we held a meeting during which the 17 striking grass-roots groups unanimously decided to lift the strike.

[Reporter] What are the conditions for the CITE's suspension of the strike?

[Martinez] The strike has been suspended, but the National Executive Committee is empowered to resume it at any time, taking into account the threat of dismissals and salary penalties and other government-ordered measures against labor leaders.

[Reporter] Will all sectors suspend the strike?

[Martinez] Some grass-roots sectors such as the Sunap [National Superintendancy of Tax Administration], the educational sector, the Fentase [expansion unknown], and the transport sector will continue the strike until their problems are solved.

[Reporter] Do you advocate the dismissal of people allegedly involved in corruption?

[Martinez] The CITE has been working in the various departments to clarify the irregularities.

[Reporter] Has any employee been prosecuted?

[Martinez] Many have been prosecuted.

[Reporter] Are there documents to prove this?

[Martinez] Yes, there are documents. The CITE has also delivered documents to President Fujimori. We have also denounced irregularities in customs and at several ministries; however, the government has taken no action so far.

[Reporter] How many people do you think are involved in corruption?

[Martinez] There are really more than 10,000 corrupt workers.

[Reporter] Ten thousand corrupt workers?

[Martinez] Yes. The workers should not be blamed for this situation, but rather the previous administrations and those officials who allowed such irregularities. [end recording]

Fujimori Returns to Country, Comments on Summit

PY0112204290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] The Peruvian Air Force plane that carried President Alberto Fujimori from La Paz, Bolivia, to Air Force Group No. 8 [base] has already landed.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] How were the Peruvian proposals, specifically those on [words indistinct], social compensation, and other issues, received at the just-concluded fourth Andean summit?

[Fujimori] Well now, integration was the basic issue under discussion. I want to emphasize some points. A series of barriers will be removed throughout 1991, a relatively short period. Intraregional trade among the Andean Group countries will be virtually free. There will be free circulation, and there will not be any tariffs—with the exception of Ecuador, which is in a situation that is considered special.

There are also extremely important, interesting agreements with a great deal of impact. Citizens of the Andean Group countries will be able to move freely, without any visa requirements, and tourists will be allowed to travel freely for three months. We also agreed to open Andean skies. This means that airlines of the Andean Group countries will be entitled to use the routes linking our countries' various cities. This is an important breakthrough that facilitates intraregional trade and the movement of people and tourists.

Integration will be achieved, therefore, through extremely practical, direct measures.

[Reporter] Mr. President, will development of the nations, which is the Andean Pact's goal, be achieved?

[Fujimori] Of course. For example, tourism; this will reactivate all tourist activities in our countries.

[Reporter] The important part involves development of the business sector, which was very important at this summit. How, in what way, will entrepreneurs jointly participate?

[Fujimori] We, the Andean Group states, agreed to provide an appropriate framework for all economic agents to develop within the integration goals. The private business sector has an extremely important role. Private businessmen, through their representatives, have expressed satisfaction with and support for the agreements that have been reached. Of course, they play a basic role.

[Reporter] The Declaration of La Paz changes Article 24, which deals with special treatment for foreign capital. How was Article 24 changed?

[Fujimori] Foreign capital will receive equal treatment. Of course, foreign investment will be fostered. The concentration of some of this capital in some of our countries is what has caused us concern. Mechanisms are being sought for equality, for a just distribution of foreign investment....

[Reporter, interrupting] Has the possibility been considered of...?

[Fujimori, continuing] Therefore, that is being achieved through some agreements.

[Reporter] Mr. President, did you discuss Chile's chance of returning to the Andean Pact and joining the Cartagena Accord?

[Fujimori] No, that was not considered.

[Reporter] What agreement was reached with respect to drug trafficking, Mr. President?

[Fujimori] To ratify the Cartagena summit agreements; our countries again reiterated that position. We all agreed that suppressive measures should not be the only ones taken, but rather, integral measures. Peru's position was excellently received. The very fact that we did not sign [as heard] is a clear sign that we are actually seeking an integral proposal in every aspect.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the proposals provide an integral solution to the problem of drug trafficking?

[Fujimori] That is right. This was specified in the Declaration of La Paz.

[Reporter] What about concrete measures, Mr. President? Have any concrete measures been considered?

[Fujimori] Pardon?

[Reporter] Concrete measures to eradicate drug trafficking.

[Fujimori] Well now, that was contemplated in the Cartagena summit agreements. Those agreements have not yet been fully implemented, and of course, it will take a while. There are also some projects that have been supported by the [Andean Pact] presidential council; for example, the feasibility of constructing a protein-rich food processing plant.

[Reporter] There has been talk about establishing an Andean common market, Mr. President. Are there any projects in this respect?

[Fujimori] A free trade zone that includes the four Andean countries will virtually be established as of 1991, and this represents an interesting and important—almost historic—event. I believe this is an important step that will lay the groundwork for creation—I do not know if it will be in 1993 or 1995—of an Andean market.

[Reporter] What proposals will Peru make on this Andean common market, Mr. President?

[Fujimori] Pardon?

[Reporter] The proposals Peru would make on the Andean common market [words indistinct] free trade.

[Fujimori] No. They have already been made. The proposals on a free trade zone have already been made. [end recording]

Minister on Uruguay Round, Andean Pact Summit

PY0312225390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0043 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Text] Lima, 1 Dec (EFE)—Guido Pennano, Peruvian industry and commerce minister, said today that the final meeting of the GATT Uruguay Round could fail "if firm rules are not established, especially for the trade of foodstuffs."

The minister, who is heading the Peruvian delegation, left for Brussels where the GATT meeting will begin tomorrow, Sunday [2 December], in an atmosphere of uncertainty.

In Brussels, the Uruguay Round will make a concerted attempt to save the multilateral negotiations that began in 1986.

Minister Pennano said: "There are many barriers that prevent the export of food to the United States, as is the case with the Peruvian mango."

The minister pointed out that, to prevent mangos from entering, the United States invokes preventive measures against "the Mediterranean fruit fly." This infestation does not exist in Latin America, he noted.

The United States is raising similar pretexts on Mexican tomatoes and Colombian flowers, the minister added.

Pennano indicated that the 107 nations that will attend the Brussels meeting have not formed any blocs or taken joint positions, and that "every country has a proposal of its own."

The minister indicated that in Brussels agreements will be sought with the European countries in the fields of textiles and clothing.

In reference to the "summit" of Andean Group presidents that ended last Friday [30 November] in La Paz, Pennano noted Ecuador's "old protectionist position" on the decision to create an Andean free trade zone as of 31 December 1991, advancing the removal of tariffs.

Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja said that his country will abide by that decision when his country's situation permits.

The Peruvian minister expressed his hope that, during the next Andean presidential meeting to be held within six months in Caracas, Ecuador will abandon its current position "to consolidate the integration process."

20 Rebels Killed in Battle With Security Forces

PY0412012090 Madrid EFE in English 0109 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Lima, Dec 3 (EFE)—At least 20 leftist Peruvian guerrillas were killed Monday [3 December] during a two-hour gun battle with security forces near a town in the central Andean highlands, a radio station based in the capital reported. Citing police officials, the Radio Programas station said the clash came as security forces surprised a group of Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) rebels who were preparing to attack the town of Alto Mayo, some 650 km north of Lima. Five security force members were wounded in the gun battle, and a quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered, police said.

A Senate Commission recently reported that 3,213 people have been killed this year in political violence in Peru. Of the number, 245 were security force members. The commission said that 19,024 people had been killed since the Maoist "Shining Path" rebel group took up arms in 1980, four years before the smaller MRTA group emerged.

Tupac Amaru, which takes its name from an 18th century Indian leader who led a rebellion against Spanish rule, first hit headlines with a machine gun attack on the U.S. embassy in the capital in September 1984.

Shining Path Kills 7 Peasants, Injures 13

PY3011222590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0001 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Ayacucho (Peru), 29 Nov (EFE)—Military sources reported today that at least seven "peasant defense patrolmen" were killed and 13 were injured when an armed column of the "Shining Path" terrorist group attacked the town of Huancayocc, some 60 km north of the Peruvian city of Ayacucho.

According to the military, at midnight on Wednesday [28 November] about 200 terrorists attacked the town, burning some 40 houses where more than 1,000 people were dwelling, and killing their domestic animals.

The sources indicated that the members of the "peasant defense patrols," civilian militias that are confronting the terrorist groups, tried to counter the attack but were unsuccessful because they were caught by surprise.

As they withdrew from the town and after planting several red hammer-and-sickle flags, the rebels carried away eight-year-old Anselmo Cruz.

A 20-year-old woman is among the seven peasants slain.

The sources in Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of Lima, have said that Huancayocc is located in northeastern Huanta Province, Ayacucho Department.

November Inflation Termed 'Lowest' in Four Years

PY0312024490 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The National Statistics Institute [INE] has officially reported that inflation was 5.9 percent in November. This is the lowest inflation rate in the past four years and confirms the decline of the inflationary process as a result of implementation of the economic stabilization plan.

INE chief Felix Murillo said food and beverages, clothes and shoes, and entertainment and education expenses accounted for the largest price increases, while fuel, rent, electricity, and health expenses were the items with the largest drops in prices.

Murillo said inflation will stand at one or two percent in the next few months. [passage omitted]

Committee Created To Deal With Creditors

PY3011221790 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] The Economy and Finance Ministry has created the Foreign Debt Committee, the goal of which will be to negotiate with the creditor organizations issues related to the rescheduling of our country's obligations.

Terrorists Abduct Drugstore Company Chairman

PY0412105590 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] The chairman of the board of directors of the (Kanjor y Cliver) drugstore company was the victim of a spectacular kidnapping this morning by a terrorist commando in Lince District. A security guard and a mechanic were injured during the terrorist action.

This morning eight alleged subversives, led by a woman, kidnapped the chairman of the board of directors of the (Kanjor y Cliver) drugstore company.

During the terrorist action, company watchman (Efrain Cespedes Jurai) was wounded in his right foot by a bullet, and mechanic (Angel Larrosa Juarez) was injured in his right foot by shrapnel.

The subversive action was carried out in block 22 of Miguel Iglesias Street in Lince District.

A red Mercedes Benz with license plates CQ-4374 was destroyed during the subversive attack against the (Kanjor y Cliver) drugstore chairman. According to unofficial sources, the eight subversives, who were led by a woman, entered the parking lot to plant a bomb and, thus, distract the police.

* Environmental Law 'Worries' Industrial Sector

* Concerns Highlighted

91WN0070A Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 28 Oct 90 p 7

[Report by Ana Maria Mejia]

[Text] The majority of the people in Peru still have no ecological awareness, and this ignorance is aggravated by the poverty which is preventing the sustained economic development of our country.

A large portion of the responsibility falls to the government, which has never concerned itself with the definition of a national environmental policy leading to the utilization of our natural resources to the benefit of the people's well-being. For this reason, when the Environmental and Natural Resources Code was promulgated last September, new prospects were opened up for the consideration of those who, year after year, had been urging the need for legislation in this connection which would take the interests of the country into account. After 30 years, a monumental step has been taken. The code in question defines the guidelines for an environmental policy which is intended to be consistent and homogeneous. Its integrational criterion is designed to unify the scattered legislation which exists on the subject.

Obviously, the new codification cannot be a "magic wand" which will resolve environmental problems within a short period. In many developed countries, for example, it has taken industry whole decades to acquire the ability to develop the new technologies designed to protect the environment. This will not be an easy task. An individual and collective commitment will be needed if there is to be a modification of the social activities and habits which have prevailed to date, and if, in turn, the responsibility for repairing the ecological damage is to be assumed.

Some Objections

As was to be expected, the promulgation of this code provoked an immediate reaction from sectors linked with industry, the mining enterprises among them. Their representatives have raised many objections to the provisions set forth in the code, terming them imprecise and unconstitutional. Senator Beatriz Merino, the president of the Senate Commission on Ecology, has said that the

Environmental Code needs to be perfected. "It is a document which seeks to improve the quality of life for the citizens, but we do not want it to become a tool of aggression against productive activities," she said.

Industrialists Express Views

In an interesting demonstration of democracy, a discussion was held with both governmental and nongovernmental organizations and bodies linked with participating industry. They made their respective suggestions, through their spokesmen, to the members of the commissions on ecology in both legislative chambers.

In this connection, the representative of the National Mining Association, Luis Rodriguez Mariategui, warned that "the code has given rise to great anxiety in all of the industrial sectors in the country." This is because, he went on to add, "many of its articles lack legal definition, since they do not specify what the criminal types of conduct are." He also expressed concern about the provisions of Article 70 of the code. It says that the mining concessions can be expropriated in the social interest, following payment of indemnification based on an appraisal. In addition, those industries which act in violation of the norms set forth in the code will revert to the state, without the right to any compensation. Rodriguez Mariategui said that this provision justifies confiscation. "This would be expropriation without payment to the mining companies, and that is confiscation pure and simple."

Concerning this provision, Jorge Caillaux, president of the Peruvian Environmental Law Society, explained that the norms set forth in the code were not meant to allow confiscation, because what is turned back is the concession, not the infrastructure, which is owned by the concession holder. A spokesman for that same institution said for his part that "this is not an unconstitutional norm, because the Constitution says in its Article 118 that both renewable and nonrenewable natural resources (minerals) belong to the state, and it has the authority to establish conditions which, if violated or not fulfilled, will lead to the reversion of the concession to the state."

Deputy Lucila Shinsato, president of the Commission on Ecology in the lower chamber, said that "the respective commissions are not going to prevent the development of the mining enterprises, because they generate more than 50 percent of state income."

Tax Incentives

The questions raised also came from the representative of the National Association of Industries, Arturo Salazar Larrain, who warned that the tax cost could be equivalent to the investment itself, which is in contradiction with the intent to promote the economic development of the country. In this connection, Deputy Gustavo del Solar said he believes that "Minister of Economy Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller should intervene to ensure that tax incentives are provided and that total tax exemption is allowed for all of the teams working to decontaminate the environment."

There is, on the other hand, a period of 180 days in which industries must adapt to the demands of the code. This period is not long enough for the introduction of any technology or scientific advances which will reduce pollution. However, this period refers only to the fulfillment of the formal obligations, which do not involve any major expenditures. All of the infrastructure investments or expenditures, on the contrary, which up to the effective date had not been required, will have to be made within the periods established by the executive branch. These may range from five to 15 years, depending on the case.

Parliamentarians Optimistic

An atmosphere of optimism prevails among the parliamentarians serving on the ecology commissions in both chambers. They are quite confident that it is will be possible to reconcile the interests of certain industries with the norms set forth in the code. "Those who pollute will have to pay, and this is a universally accepted principle," Gustavo del Solar commented, while Deputy Cristobal Campana said that the miners have been creating difficulties because this is a part of a strategy, but that in the end they will yield. All that remains is to wait for the industrialists to realize that environmental protection will bring dividends in the long run. It is not without good reason that many mining enterprises throughout the world are adapting to these parameters. A consensus is indispensable, for only thus will the interests of the nation be served.

* Miners Voice Objections

91WN0070B Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
30 Oct 90 p B-9

[Excerpt] "The period established for the adaptation of mining activities to the Environmental and Natural Resources Code should be extended, because it is not possible in 180 days to change systems which it takes many years to introduce," the president of the National Association of Mining, Luis Rodriguez Mariategui, said.

He stated that in the meantime, application of the code should be suspended to give the enterprises in the sector time to adapt to environmental protection requirements, while creating the conditions needed to achieve the purpose.

"This process requires sizable investments, and it is for this reason that other countries have allowed the mining sector periods of ten to 15 years to implement these norms. Here, on the other hand, the period established for the purpose is 180 days, of which 60 have already elapsed. And if to this brief period we add the current crisis, it is unlikely that the mining enterprises can conform to the code," he explained.

He also asserted that it is necessary to reformulate certain concepts in this new code and to eliminate others "which have punitive aspects constituting an obstacle to mining and oil investment in Peru."

"The recent measure prohibits the exploitation of mining rights, with no payment whatsoever, when the security and prevention norms established by the Environmental Code are violated. This provision lends itself to serious abuse, because this code lacks juridical and technical definition. In addition, there is no authority to which one can appeal in the event that arbitrary action is taken," he said.

As an example of the possible kinds of abuse, Rodriguez Mariategui mentioned Regional Legislative Resolution 018-90-AR/RI of the Inca Region. This document was approved by the Assembly with a view to suing a gold-mining enterprise for loss and damages and demanding cancellation of the rights acquired by the company.

"In this case, misuse of nonrenewable natural resources and destruction of the ecosystem of the region is being alleged. But there is no technical study to support this, nor is any defense by the parties charged being allowed," he asserted.

He said that the recently promulgated code imposes serious criminal penalties, including deprivation of personal freedom for crimes which are not in all cases clearly defined by its norms. He added that not even the term "pollution" has been defined, which is why the obligations enterprises must fulfill are not clear.

"There are even more dangerous norms, such as that which allows the cancellation of contracts between private enterprises and the state if their implementation threatens the protection and safeguarding of protected natural areas. In short, the code is full of prohibitions, restrictions, and corrections," Rodriguez Mariategui said.

He commented that if this measure were implemented immediately, small-scale mining along the Central Highway would have to cease, since the code prohibits the deposit of tailings within a distance of less than 500 meters from watercourses.

Uruguay

Marches Against Bush Policy Planned for 4 Dec

PY0312220590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2026 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Montevideo, 3 Nov [date as received] (EFE) — On 4 December in Montevideo several Uruguayan organizations will carry out a march during which white crosses will be carried, symbolizing a cemetery. The march has been called to repudiate the economic policy of U. S. President George Bush, who at that time will be making an official visit to Uruguay.

The demonstration was called for by the People's Solidarity Committees of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, and Colombia.

Those who have called for the demonstration have indicated that the protest is a result of the fact that "the economic policy imposed by the U.S. Government is leading our continent toward hunger and misery."

"This living death [muerte en vida] will be represented by the white crosses," they added.

The demonstration will begin with a gathering in Libertad Plaza, downtown Montevideo, and it will be followed by a march of crosses to Congress. Bush will address Congress, which is made up of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

The U.S. President will arrive in Montevideo on 4 December for a 22-hour visit during which he will meet with his Uruguayan colleague, Luis Alberto Lacalle.

The weekly MATE AMARGO, which is linked to the former National Liberation Movement-Tupamaros (MLN) guerrilla group, today published a special issue entitled "Bush Get Out." The issue dedicates several pages to criticism of the chief of state's visit.

The weekly includes an "unwelcome" [contrarreception] banner for Bush. The banner is a U.S. flag with a skull in the middle.

The MLN has also called for "a great 'banging of pots and pans' to give Bush the greeting he deserves."

The people's protest by banging of pots and pans became very popular in Uruguay during the military regime (1973-85), and the practice has been maintained during democracy to show disapproval of speeches and attitudes of politicians.

President Lacalle Expresses Support for Menem

PY0312203790 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1811 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] Montevideo, 3 Dec (TELAM-ANSA)— During a phone conversation, Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle expressed his solidarity with his Argentine counterpart Carlos Saul Menem in the face of the Argentine incidents caused by a group of military "Painted Faces."

Uruguayan Government spokesmen have said that "this morning Lacalle talked with Menem, to whom he conveyed his full support for Menem's effort in defense of democracy in Argentina."

Defense Minister Mariano Brito said that "the Uruguayan Government has not yet taken any special measure in the wake of the events in the neighbor country," but that Uruguay "is closely following its development."

Venezuela

Perez Praises Bush, Supports UN Resolution

PA0212002390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2230 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Caracas, 1 Dec (EFE)—Today President Carlos Andres Perez described the stance of his colleague, U.S. President George Bush, as intelligent for his offer to hold direct talks with Iraq.

Regarding the UN Security Council's resolution authorizing the use of force if Iraq fails to pull out from Kuwait, Perez said: We support President Bush's intelligent and conciliatory stance now that he has attained this victory in the United Nations.

Perez went on to say: One would think that the UN's decision has given the United States the right to invade and to prepare for military actions against Kuwait because of all the military power deployed in the area by the United States and European countries. President Bush, however, has decided to opt for deliberation and invited Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to come to Washington and talk with him. In addition, Mr. Bush has instructed Foreign Secretary James Baker to talk with Saddam Husayn in an effort to find a solution.

Perez pointed out that the UN's decision is but a flat statement that the world will not accept a country simply disappearing after it has been invaded and that should it become necessary to resort to the use of force, Venezuela supports this decision.

Hails Bush's Talks With Husayn

PA0312024990 Paris AFP in Spanish 0047 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] San Fernando de Apure, Venezuela, 2 Dec (AFP)—Oscar Arias, former Costa Rican president and Nobel peace prize winner, and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today headed a spectacular parade for peace in San Fernando de Apure, a city located in the Venezuelan plains, 300 km southwest of Caracas.

The parade, which was attended by 100,000 people, was convoked by the Venezuelan Council for Peace when the UN Security Council gave Iraq until 15 January to pull out of Kuwait and authorized the use of force.

Arias urged an intensification of diplomatic efforts to persuade Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, after stating that the "needy world," Africa, Asia, and Latin America, will be the main victims if such a conflict breaks out.

Arias, former Costa Rican president and the craftsman of peace in Central America, said he is willing to personally undertake all the necessary efforts to prevent a war in the Persian Gulf. Arias said: "Now, more than ever, I will do whatever I can."

Arias and Perez also hailed U.S. President George Bush's willingness to begin a direct dialogue with Husayn, expressed in Bush's decision to send U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad and to invite Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to the United States.

Manuel Dengo Obregon, former Costa Rican vice president during the Arias administration, and various Venezuelan personalities also attended the parade for peace.

Discusses Visit, Initiative

PA0412025890 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Dec 90

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez paid a visit to Apure State on 2 December. While there, he said he was pleased with U.S. President George Bush's initiative to establish a direct dialogue with the Iraqi Government of Saddam Husayn.

The president arrived at the Las Lecheras airport of San Fernando de Apure, where he was welcomed by Apure Governor Jose Gregorio Montilla and former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. The president greeted the honor guard and representatives of the main sectors of the state. He said he was pleased to meet again with an old friend like the former Costa Rican president and Nobel peace prize winner. Journalists immediately began to ask him questions, most of which centered on the Middle East.

[Begin Perez recording] We fully agree with the UN decisions on Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. We are very pleased with what President Bush has done because it shows that he does not desire war. Instead, every possible step is being taken to reach an agreement and an understanding. The fact that the Iraqi foreign minister has been invited to talk directly with the president of the United States, who heads the UN forces in the Middle East, and the fact that Secretary of State Baker has been instructed to visit Iraq, clearly shows that peace is desired and even more important, that the superpowers, such as the United States, are no longer seeking to forcibly impose their decisions. [end recording]

Regarding U.S. President George Bush's visit to Latin America and particularly to Venezuela next week, the Venezuelan president said that Bush will be well received, and he reiterated that he has been designated to voice the region's position on the Bush initiative. After his remarks, the president went to Libertador Avenue where he watched one of the country's most important civilian parades, the international peace parade. For the past four years, the community has participated in the parade, along with musical groups and floats, to ask for what is so desired at this time—world peace.

After the parade, President Perez and former Costa Rican President Arias left for Maiquetia. Before he left, however, and in view of insistent questions from local journalists, Perez said that the San Fernando-Puerto Paez Highway will not be finished right away because there are other priorities in the country. But he said that the people should not lose hope because even though he believes that the construction of this highway was a mistake, it will be finished when the necessary resources are available.

Court Refuses Extradition of Trafficker to U.S.

PA0112041090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0231 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Caracas, 30 Nov (EFE)—The Venezuelan Supreme Court of Justice today refused to hand over alleged Colombian drug trafficker Ramiro Benedetti Gutierrez to U.S. authorities and instead ordered him extradited to Colombia.

The highest Venezuelan court refused to extradite Benedetti to the U.S. Government because he has received a life sentence in the United States. This sentence is contrary to the Venezuelan Constitution, which stipulates a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison.

Benedetti, who has been accused of attempted homicide in his country, was arrested in Caracas in 1982 at the request of the U.S. Government. He is being kept under protective custody in a Caracas prison.

Sources of the Supreme Court of Justice said that Benedetti's extradition to Colombia will take place as soon as the Venezuelan legal requirements are met.

* Expansion of Drug Trafficking Viewed

* Overview Provided

91WD0090A Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 14 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Silent politicians, policies that don't work, judges who cooperate with drug traffickers, and excessively prosperous economic sectors make up a reconversion scenario: Venezuela, after serving as a "bridge" for the drug traffic, has now become a drug producer.

The expansion of the influence of drug trafficking in the nation's financial and banking area, the growth in real estate, the overwhelming amounts of cash floating around in Barquisimeto, San Cristobal and Barinas, cities where dire poverty had been the rule, are factors that disturb the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies' Standing Committee on Drug Abuse, Luis Guillermo Hernandez Morales.

In the Zulia region, the situation is worse than alarming, for the entire Sierra de Perija is being invaded by cocaine producers and processors, who have set up the largest drug trafficking lab in Venezula in that region. Deputy Hernandez Morales reported this, saying that Congress and the National Guard invited the top regional official, Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, to discuss the problem, acting under the assumption that opium poppies are being grown in Zulia, but no response was received from the governor. And it seems that official influence has even managed to reach the press, to prevent the truth from coming out.

But in calling upon parts of society which have not been contaminated by drugs to organize a national antidrug campaign, the organizations involved in this effort are proposing a reform of the Drug Abuse Law going beyond a matter of legal procedure.

The proposed reform would like for property stemming from drug trafficking to be immediately confiscated, until the alleged drug trafficker can prove his innocence. It also seeks to develop mechanisms allowing capital to be checked to determine if it has come from legitimate sources, and attempts to alter the banking secrecy rules which the traffickers use to cover up their financial dealings.

In addition, the legal reform will give the security forces resources, training and logistics to control crime and develop prevention and rehabilitation plans.

* Zulia Governor Comments

91WD0090B Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 24 Oct 90 p 27

[Report of interview with Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, Zulia state governor, by Oswaldo Gutierrez; place and date not given]

[Text] The fact that the nation's financial institutions are possibly being used to launder money is nothing new, especially in terms of drug trafficking, said Zulia state governor Oswaldo Alvarez Paz.

He feels that a great deal of money, both inside and outside Venezuela, has been laundered through such channels. Even though Venezuela has legislation to deal with the drug problem, to date the government has been unable to effectively implement these laws.

He described Venezuelan society as lacking protection regarding drug trafficking and psychotropic substances, saying that there has also been a great deal of negligence, apathy, and laziness when facing this problem. Some people prefer to keep their eyes and ears shut.

He warned that Venezuela is following in Colombia's footsteps. He criticized the lack of authority given to CONACUID [Standing Committee Against Drug Abuse]. He added that the nation is experiencing a silent penetration, relying on complicity in the world of politics, society and the economy to ensure that drug violations go unpunished.

He considers this an unequal struggle, for drug trafficking has immense economic resources far exceeding the resources of the organizations responsible for controlling this illegal activity.

Lack of Responsibility?

During the conversation with Zulia's top regional official, a question was raised about the statement made by CONACUID chairman Luis Guillermo Hernandez Morales, who said that he had found that Oswaldo

Alvarez Paz was not receptive and did not show respect for his efforts in the antidrug campaign in his region. "But even more serious, and this cannot fail to disturb us, was his indifferent and apathetic behavior when the committee went with the National Guard to the cocaine producing and processing areas, which may also be growing opium poppies. We invited him to discuss this situation, and he turned a deaf ear."

Alvarez Paz gave the following answer: "That statement by Deputy Luis Guillermo Hernandez is not the first of that nature. If that is how he is trying to run the effort against drug trafficking in Congress, I think he is doing the nation a great disservice. I will not hesitate to describe that statement as tremendously irresponsible. I have always been opposed to the opportunistic use of the drug issue."

He mentioned that he was the first to bring the drug problem to the attention of parliament in an integral manner. "In February 1984 we had the first political debate during that consitutional term. I was appointed to chair the special Chamber committee on drugs, which prepared the antidrug legislation we now have in Venezuela. That job was completed in record time. From that time forward I have devoted a good part of my efforts and of my life to working against illegal drug trafficking and consumption. But I have always avoided public exposure and what I believe is excessive publicity about what is being done in this field, especially about programs to control money laundering."

He argued that publicity in this field works against the efficiency of the actions taken, and serves as a warning to the drug trafficking world. Therefore, he has never wanted to seek publicity under this banner, or to set up an inadequate "smokescreen" in dealing with the drug issue.

He pointed out that the CONACUID chairman in his statement mentioned a meeting he had called. "It is true that he invited me. I even offered him the use of the Executive Reception Room of Zulia state so the meeting could be held there, but unfortunately on that day the minister of internal relations was in Maracaibo, and we had a trip planned to Upper Goajira, an area where a good part of the problem is located. For that reason I was unable to accompany Deputy Hernandez Morales who, irrationally I feel, was offended by my absence."

Actions

[Gutierrez] As governor of Zulia, what are you doing to combat drug trafficking?

[Alvarez Paz] A great deal is being done. When you see the magnitude of the raids that have recently taken place in the Zulia region, which have been the largest in recent times, and the partial breakup of the networks which were involved in drug trafficking, that is indeed a sign that a lot is being done. I would be working against the purpose of this endeavor if I explained in detail how the raids work, and the information, intelligence and security systems that are being set up. To an even lesser extent can we describe publicly how our Armed Forces are operating, not only in the Goajira area, but in the Sierra de Perija as well. Nevertheless, he did say that they are about to begin a joint operation with all the security organizations in the Zulia region in the Sierra de Perija.

[Gutierrez] How would you describe the problem in your state?

[Alvarez Paz] It's very serious. I doubt if there is another area in Venezuela that is more likely to be a victim of drug trafficking. We are victimized by the trafficking in itself and money laundering, and by its silent penetration, which relies on complicity: in the upper levels of politics, on the social world, and on the economic world in the region, to ensure that a great deal of criminal activity goes unpunished.

[Gutierrez] But are you prepared in terms of logistics?

[Alvarez Paz] It is an unequal struggle. These people have resources and an organization outstripping those of the organizations which are responsible for controlling and destroying them. But in spite of all that, we are alert, ready, and to the extent of our strength, we are combatting them with a relative amount of success.

Penetration at High Levels

Oswaldo Alvarez Paz is concerned about the silent penetration of drug trafficking in the upper echelons of power in his region. He mentions the effective participation of some financial institutions in drug-related activity.

"I believe our financial institutions and our system permit a great deal of money laundering both inside and outside Venezuela. That isn't new. What may be new is the way the money coming from drug trafficking appears. Several months ago it was found that a company which exported canned shrimp to Miami was putting drugs in its cans, and in addition, it was also receiving tax incentives," he indicated.

He added that as the financial system becomes more open, as the trend would seem to indicate, the risks become greater. "This doesn't mean that I am opposed to these changes, but it does create an obligation to be more alert, even though it isn't the job of the banks, but rather of the security and intelligence forces. I am sure that with policies designed to deal with this, the financial institutions will be quite willing to cooperate in this effort."

About the possibility that the Sierra de Perija is becoming a major area for growing opium poppies and coca leaves, he said the National Guard is working on this problem and taking all the appropriate steps.

He maintains that unfortunately, "the government has not been able to implement the legislation we [now] have to deal with drug trafficking, to take preventive measures, and use the methods and procedures which have been established."

* Developments Within Ruling Party Noted

* Party Elections Delayed

91SM0070A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish
16 Oct 90 p 14, Sec 1

[Report by Alirio Bolivar]

[Text] The Democratic Action (AD) CEN [National Executive Committee] continued its debate of the proposed regulation of the internal election process yesterday and, after nine hours, passed 60 articles, leaving another 77 to be studied by a committee headed by General Secretary Humberto Celli and made up of Luis Alfaro Ucero, Luis Pinerua Ordaz, Henry Ramos Allup, and Hector Alonso Lopez.

The committee is to analyze controversial articles, but no deadline has been set for that task, although results of its work will go to the CEN for a second round of analysis.

The committee is expected to present its conclusions at the beginning of the year. This leads most members of the CEN to conclude that the internal election of new officials will not be able to be held before May or June of 1991.

CEN members were summoned for the single purpose of analyzing the proposed regulation drafted by a committee headed by Henry Ramos Allup. Members of the Electoral Branch, headed by Manuel Mantilla, were also invited to the meeting. All attended except for Luis Alfaro Ucero, whose absence was considered strategic.

Those attending the meeting agreed that discussion of the regulation took place in an atmosphere of harmony, aided by the fact that the controversial articles were referred to the special committee. The AD leadership even sang "Happy Birthday" to Andres Eloy Blanco Iturbe.

Humberto Celli told reporters there had been a brouhaha over the automatic delegates, a false issue inasmuch as there are more controversial issues. Party statutes establish that a minimum of 60 percent of all delegates to party events are to be elected by the rank and file and a maximum 40 percent will automatically come from those organizations. Inasmuch as it is a statutary question, it cannot be changed by a regulation. Nevertheless, the matter was referred to the committee because the sector headed by Luis Pinerua Ordaz has made serious observations to the effect that a number of organizations could be set up to increase the number of automatic delegates so as to benefit the faction headed by Ucero.

"There is nothing to discuss about the automatic delegates," Celli categorically told reporters. He added that the committee will also analyze articles basically referring to the planning of plenary sessions.

Pinerua Ordaz left the meeting in a very good mood, but refused any comment, saying only that the day of work had been positive.

* Pinerua Losing Support

91SM0070B Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish
17 Oct 90 p 5, Sec 1

[Commentary by Jose Ignacio Casal]

[Text] The line was spoken by Cantinflas and, like so many other things from that great actor, has now become universal: "Beat him with the whip of indifference." Such is the medicine being applied to Pinerua in the Democratic Action and not only by Gonzalo Barrios, Luis Alfaro Ucero, Leandro Mora, Morales Bello, and other high national leaders, but regional, district, and municipal figures as well who do not attend Pinerua's renovating assemblies. The latter are lifeless, even lugubrious, gloomy affairs due to the lack of applause when speakers defend government policies.

However, Pinerua is not only becoming isolated because of the indifference of such leaders. What is worse, he is being abandoned by his allies, who at a pompous event held in a luxurious hotel in the capital shared speeches and smiles and swallowed quantities of Scotch in a very generous toast.

Juan Jose Delpino wants to take to his heels after hearing the speeches at the trade union banquet, where the stool was pulled out from under him by his Executive Committee colleagues who (not all) had offered him support and even signed an announcement carried in the country's main newspapers. Now Delpino says he does not want to continue bothering Perez with his impertinent statements.

Hector Alonso Lopez has not made it public and notorious but nevertheless let it leak out in Executive Mansion and National Congress circles that he would like to be distinguished from the Guiria native. He did in fact try to achieve this when, from his native city, he launched the candidacy of Homero Parra for the office of organizational secretary, knowing full well that the latter had been rejected by Pinerua for as yet unknown reasons.

Luis Raul Matos, vetoed by Pinerua in 1983 and now Pinerua's candidate for organization, is now doing the "He-loves-me-He-loves-me-not" number, perhaps because he recalls Chico Matos' words when he learned of the 1983 veto.

Ledezma seems to be the most determined to stand alone with Pinerua, probably having failed to realize that in his report on the Oriente highway, he would implicate one of the men closest to him, a major contractor on the project. At any rate, as the election process approaches, this candidate wanders around like a lost soul, seeking company in order to promenade his shadow of terror over the solitary plain and frighten the naive peasants. The difference now is that it is difficult to find such naive persons, much less AD-affiliated!

* Poll Highlights Problems

91SM0070C Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 26 Oct 90 p D-2

[Text] According to an opinion poll conducted in the state of Bolivar, Pinerua has 53 percent of all backing and corruption is at the root of the political organization's very difficult internal situation.

Guayana Communications Advisers conducted a poll of voting intentions using a sampling of 800 persons in order to sound out two segments: members-supporters and activists.

The poll's sampling of members-supporters was as follows: in Upata, 80 persons; in San Felix, 329; in Puerto Ordaz, 141; and 250 in Ciudad Bolivar.

Distribution for activists was: in Upata, 19; in San Felix, 76; in Puerto Ordaz, 32; and 58 in Ciudad Bolivar.

Several questions were asked, including the following: AD is going through difficult times. What problems do you think are being generated by these difficult times?

The following responses were given: Some 38.93 percent believe that corruption is the main problem, while 20.24 percent think it is poor administration of affairs, 19.12 percent said it was internal quarrels, and 15.11 percent think it is disorganization of the party.

The other question that yielded surprising results was: Which national faction or group would respond to party interests best? A total of 36.6 percent said Pineruaism would be the solution for the party, while 30.7 percent answered Carlos Andres Perez, 28.74 percent thought no one could do anything for the AD, and 3.97 percent responded that Alfaro Ucero would be the solution for the party.

Seen in this light and if these results are true, Luis Pinerua Ordaz would be controlling a very important sectional and the only state where the Democratic Action obtained the two senators.

This would indicate that the so-called bastion of the "Chinese" no longer is one, and it could thus be concluded that the Ethics Tribunal and its rulings had an enormous impact on the government party in the state of Bolivar.

AD's Difficult Times

What problems do you think are causing these difficult times?	Percent
Corruption	38.93
Poor administration of affairs	20.24
Internal party struggles	19.12
Party disorganization	15.11
Do not know	6.48

Guyana

Former Minister Denies Pressured To Resign

FL3011223890 Bridgetown CANA in English 2200 GMT 30 Nov 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 30, CANA—Former Guyana foreign affairs minister, Rashleigh Jackson, says he felt "morally bound" to hand in his resignation to avoid being an embarrassment to the government. Jackson resigned from his ministerial post Monday in the wake of the arrest of his son, Martin, on marijuana-possession charges.

The 61-year-old former government minister, who has held the foreign affairs post since February 1978, said that a set of circumstances developed which resulted in his resignation. "I never wanted to be an embarrassment to the government and (the arrest) could have led to a situation which I wanted to avoid," he told the CANA.

"Personally, I would have to live with myself in terms of how the family I raised supported themselves. There was a part of me that was a minister and a part that was a father. I just think it was the moral thing to do."

He denied allegations that he was coming under increasing pressure from the government to resign even before his son's arrest. "If there was any pressure, I never felt it," he said.

Commenting on his future, Jackson said that he does not have any immediate plans. He also said that he has not considered his future role in Guyana's political landscape. The former minister said that he would examine any opportunity of a job to continue serving the region if any offers from Caribbean institutions arise. "I am not looking for anything in an active sense, but I will examine any proposals," he remarked.

Jackson, who was Guyana's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York for five years prior to taking up the ministerial post, told CANA he will continue to serve the ruling People's National Congress (PNC).

President Hoyte, who said he "reluctantly" accepted Jackson's letter of resignation Monday, has assumed the foreign affairs porlfolio.

Jackson Welcomes International Division Post

FL0312153090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1724 GMT 02 Dec 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec. 2, CANA—Guyana's ruling People's National Congress (PNC) has appointed former Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson as head of the international relations division within its secretariat.

Jackson, who resigned suddenly last Monday after 12 years as foreign minister, said in a telephone interview that the appointment was effective from the following day. He welcomed the job, saying it would enable him to continue serving the PNC.

Jackson's resignation followed the arrest of his son on a drugs charge. He was the longest serving Caribbean Community (Caricom) foreign minister.

Jackson, in the interview, cited a need for Guyana to seek to improve its image in the Caribbean. "A part of the problem is the Caribbean's view of Guyana," he said. "Once Guyana can turn its economy around and make it prosper, that in itself would be a positive factor in building our image," he added.

St. Vincent Company Invests in Rice Mills

*FL0312151090 Bridgetown CANA in English
2240 GMT 01 Dec 90*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec. 1, CANA—The East Caribbean Group of Companies (ECGC) of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is investing nearly 7 million dollars (U.S.) to create a new joint venture rice milling company that involves the Guyana and St. Vincent Governments, officials reported.

The new company, called the Caricom Rice Mills, Limited, came into being Friday when Guyana's minister of agriculture, Dr. Patrick McKenzie, and managing director of the ECGC, Ken Boyea, signed the joint venture agreement.

The Vincentian company, which Boyea called a spreading food conglomerate, along with prominent Guyanese rice farmer, Ivor Allen, acquired the assets of the Guyana Rice Milling and Marketing Authority (GRMMA) rice complex at Anna Regina.

The GRMMA assets, which have been identified for privatisation by the Desmond Hoyte administration, are located mainly in Essequibo, the largest of this South American nation's three counties.

Both the Guyana and Vincentian Governments have retained minority shares in the new entity. The ECGC and Allen have indicated that they will make shares available to local rice farmers. Mr. Boyea, at a press conference hosted at the presidential secretariat in the capital, Georgetown, said that farmers who have displayed a "good track record" over a five-year period will be offered ten percent of the new company's shares.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Guyana's President Hoyte and St. Vincent Prime Minister James Mitchell, who flew into the country Friday morning to see the signing. Also present were Sir Phillip Vieira, majority shareholder of the East Caribbean Flour Mill, and Claude Richardson, director of the ECGC.

At the signing Friday, President Hoyte had said that the investment is substantial evidence of the deepening of the regional integration process. It also showed the confidence Caribbean entrepreneurs have in Guyana and its future, and it is a clear manifestation of the growing success of government's three-year economic reform programme, he said.

Mitchell said that his country has confidence in the long-term future of Guyana. "Our confidence in Guyana has never wavered," he told journalists. The reputation of St. Vincent is at stake, Mitchell said. "We know that we cannot afford to fail. There is an element of risk in this investment but we are prepared to take that risk," he said.

Early last year, ten corporations were initially identified for privatisation here. These included the state-run Guyana Telecommunications Corporation, the Guyana Transport Services, Limited, and the Guyana Electricity Corporation. 46$

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$# [as received] or outright loss-making, has been the main reasons given by the Hoyte Government for the shedding of the entities.